

Iraq studies emergency plans

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is studying plans to recall army reservists in the event of a national emergency, the Iraqi news agency (INA) said Monday. It said members of the Revolutionary Command Council, the ruling Baath Party and the general command of the armed forces discussed a new system which could be used to counter any threats to national security. Iraq, at uneasy peace with Iran following the August ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war, has demobilised large numbers of army reservists. INA quoted a military spokesman as saying the new system was "based on the needs for national defence taking into consideration all probabilities to ensure speedy and accurate mobilisation." President Saddam Hussein said last month that the size of Iraq's armed forces increased from 12 divisions before the war erupted in September 1980 to 100 divisions when the ceasefire went into force. A retired army officer told Reuters that a quick call-up system was needed because the ceasefire had still to be guaranteed by a formal peace pact. "Since peace with Iran has not yet been firmly established, the new system is based on the principle that reservists should rejoin the armed forces in the shortest possible time in case of any resumption in hostilities," he said.

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Sharif Zaid named Royal Court Chief; Qasem replaces Masri; Abu Odeh, Khammash appointed advisors; Malhas takes over health; Hmoud, Hamdan exchange portfolios; Tarawneh moves to supply; two ministries abolished; Abu Taleb assumes Armed Forces responsibility

Cabinet reshuffled

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday issued royal decrees reshuffling the Cabinet of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, making

appointments in top positions at the Royal Court, and abolishing two portfolios.

The royal decrees, effective Monday, appointed Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker as Chief of the Royal Court and advisor to the King on Armed Forces affairs. Royal Court Chief Marwan Qasem was appointed as deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Another decree appointed Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh as political advisor to the King and abolishing his former post. A new post of special advisor to the King was filled by Amer Khammash, a former court minister. The decree accepted the resignations of Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and Dr. Sami Joudeh, minister of state for par-

liamentary affairs, whose post was abolished. Based on a recommendation by Rifai in accordance with Article 35 of the constitution, the Royal Decree also interchanged the portfolios of Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud with that of Minister of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan. Dr. Zuhair Malhas replaced

Hamzeh as health minister and Supply Minister Abdul Salam Kanaan changed portfolios with Dr. Fayed Tarawneh, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs. Yanal Hikmat, the former chief of royal protocol, took the post of tourism minister, replacing Zuhair Ajlouni who was appointed as minister of state for

(Continued on page 2)



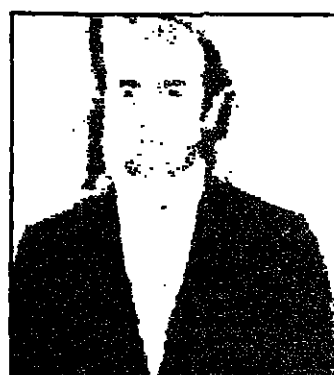
Zaid Rifai



Marwan Al Qasem



Zuhair Malhas



Yanal Hikmat

His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, who was appointed Royal Court Chief and the King's advisor on Armed Forces affairs. Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb was entrusted with the responsibility for the Armed Forces (Petra photo)

AROUND THE WORLD...

'Bonn paid Israel for U.S. technology'

HAMBURG (AP) — The West German government paid millions of dollars to Israel for development of a sophisticated radar defence system copied from U.S. technology, a magazine reported Monday. The weekly Der Spiegel newsmagazine, quoting unnamed defence sources in Bonn, said West Germany paid 1 billion marks (\$570 million) to Israel for a radar defence system to be fitted on its Tornado fighter jets. The magazine said the official supplier was the West German electronic firm AEG, but the basic components were delivered by the Israeli company Elta.

Libya to drop support of Somali rebels

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has welcomed Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre to Tripoli, apologised for Libya's support of opponents of his government and pledged to cut off assistance to such groups, Libya's JANA news agency said Monday. The news agency quoted Qadhafi as telling Siad Barre at a banquet Sunday night that "a page of the unfortunate past has been turned over to start a new page thanks to this visit."

Rebels threaten to attack Khartoum

NAIROBI (R) — The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) threatened Monday to attack the capital Khartoum with a captured Soviet-built MIG bomber and said a second MIG was in its hands. Last week the SPLA said a MIG-23 fighter bomber piloted by a Libyan had made an emergency landing in rebel-held territory Dec. 11, after running out of fuel. In a further broadcast Monday the SPLA said a second MIG-23 had crash-landed Dec. 11 after being shot down by rebel forces, and the Libyan pilot captured.

Bush names Kemp to cabinet

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush, rushing to round out his cabinet before the Christmas holidays, Monday named one-time rival Jack Kemp to be his secretary of housing and urban development. Kemp, 53, ran for the Republican presidential nomination this year but dropped out after faring poorly.

Ethiopian rebels free 5,000 captives

NAIROBI (R) — The rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said Monday it had released more than 5,000 Ethiopian government soldiers captured during heavy fighting earlier this year. The TPLF, one of two main rebel movements fighting the government in northern Ethiopia, said in a statement telefaxed from the Sudanese capital Khartoum that 5,095 prisoners of war were freed in late November and early December.

PLF elects new leader

BEIRUT (R) — The Damascus-based Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) group said Monday it had elected a new secretary general to replace the late Yasser Arafat. It said in a statement sent to an international news agency in Beirut that it had chosen Youssef Al Maqadha to replace Yaqoub, 42, who died of a heart attack after attending the Palestine National Council (PNC) session in Algiers in November.

Kinnock urges resistance to IRA

BELFAST (AP) — Opposition leader Neil Kinnock Monday urged families of British soldiers to stand firm against guerrilla threats following an Irish Republican Army car bombing that damaged more than 100 homes of soldiers and civilians. The Labour Party leader, on a one-day visit to Northern Ireland, spoke out as a major cleanup started in the Nelson Drive housing project in Londonderry's mainly Protestant waterside district, where Sunday's car bomb destroyed some homes and broke windows.

Premier takes lead in Sri Lankan poll

COLOMBO (R) — Unofficial results of postal votes in four districts of Sri Lanka showed Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa with a slight edge over Sirimavo Bandaranaike, his main rival for the presidency. The results, obtained by Reuters but not yet officially confirmed, were the first to emerge from Monday's violence-hit poll (see page 8). They showed Premadasa with 1,225 votes against 1,110 for Bandaranaike.

London police on sweep against gang

LONDON (AP) — A dozen people were arrested Monday by police searching for a gang which has burgled, battered, raped and murdered its way across south London and the neighbouring Surrey and Kent countryside since September. Police said gang members were apparently committed violence for thrills or because they were high on drugs. They have linked the gang with 11 unsolved crimes, including two murders since Dec. 5, and believe they may have been responsible for many more. Arrest rewards totalling £25,000 (\$45,000) were offered by a national newspaper and the families of a rape victim and a stabbed victim. Armed officers from Surrey police and Scotland Yard joined forces to swoop on two addresses at south London arrested one woman and 11 men, Surrey police said.

GCC summit opens in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Arab Gulf leaders gathered in Bahrain Monday for their first summit since an Iran-Iraq ceasefire to discuss ways to achieve lasting peace in the region.

Heads of state from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began arriving under tight security.

Motorcades sped along empty flag-lined streets to a heavily guarded luxury hotel on the seafloor. Bahrain international airport was shut for five hours to commercial traffic.

With the Aug. 20 ceasefire still holding, the main thrust of the four-day conference will be on accelerating moves toward economic integration rather than security matters which have dominated previous summits.

"The alliance has transcended security and military challenges and is now to embark on a phase of economic integration," said GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara of Kuwait.

Knowledgeable sources, speaking on condition of anonymity,

said the Gulf leaders would also examine ways of mustering a united front within the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to stabilise oil production and prices.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar in an economic and military pact.

The alliance is designed to ultimately evolve a Gulf common market patterned after the European Economic Community.

On the sidelines, GCC oil ministers will discuss develop-

King wishes GCC success

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday telephoned the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa who is hosting the 9th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which opened in Bahrain Monday, and conveyed his greetings to the GCC leaders and best wishes for the success of the summit.

Sheikh Isa thanked the King and voiced appreciation of His Majesty's brotherly and national positions.

Ahmad Al Sabah, other jetliners brought UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia arrived in a long motorcade across the 25-kilometre causeway linking the kingdom to Bahrain and which was named after him. Sheikh Isa was on hand to greet King Fahd.

The GCC leaders are expected to seek means of implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 that calls for troops withdrawals by Iran and Iraq and an exchange of prisoners of war.

Secretary-General Bishara told reporters Sunday night the easing of tension in the region would spur unity building.

"This summit is being convened without the thunderous storms of the Iran-Iraq war looming on the horizon. The absence of war rhetoric, war damage and war mongering is conducive to better deliberations for advancement of the council towards its goals," he said.

The official also said the next summit would be held in Oman. The UAE president said the summit would strengthen Arab relations with Iran "so that Iran and Iraq may be brought closer to each other and peace prevail through U.N.-arranged dialogue... we need to rebuild what the war destroyed."

"I urge the United States to

Gandhi urges new friendship with China

PEKING (Agencies) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, starting an historic visit to Peking, called Monday for new friendship with China and a solution to a bitter border dispute that has soured relations for nearly three decades.

Gandhi, first Indian leader to visit China since his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru 34 years ago, said the Himalayan border was a major problem but "It is now time to look to the future."

"I have come to renew our old friendship," Gandhi said in speech at a welcome banquet in the Great Hall of the People given by Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Recalling close bilateral ties in the 1950s, he urged the restoration of the "vision of peace and

Israeli violence claims 11-year-old Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An 11-year-old Palestinian boy died Monday from head injuries that he suffered when he was pushed from a military jeep in the occupied West Bank, hospital officials said.

Palestinians, meanwhile, shut shops and schools on the third day of a general strike declared throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army clamped or maintained curfews on at least eight towns and refugee camps in the occupied territories that were scenes of violence Sunday, news reports said.

Palestinian doctors said Badr Karada of Nablus died at Arab Jerusalem's Mukassad hospital from trauma injuries to the head suffered Dec. 10. They said relatives told them he was pushed from a military jeep after being detained by troops.

The death raised to 342 the number of Palestinians killed in the year-long Palestinian uprising.

Left-wing Israelis, meanwhile, announced they have formed a human rights group to monitor abuses in the occupied territories. The group was named Betzelem, or "image" in English, and referred

to the biblical phrase "God created man in his own image" (Gen. 1:27).

"We formed the group to save the human image of Israel, that's why we chose this name," Roni Tamor, one of the founders, said in an interview.

She said the organisation of about 60 authors, journalists and lawyers would collect affidavits and statements about abuses, as well as lobby parliament about human rights violations.

In a related development, the attorney general ordered an investigation into a complaint by two brothers from the West Bank town of Taiibe who said they were severely beaten by agents of the Shin Bet service, the Maariv daily reported.

Abdul Nasser Jabli and Abdul Khaim Jabli said they were beaten while detained on charges of illegal possession of weapons, the newspaper reported.

Monday's strike paralysed public transportation and commerce in major towns and cities throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Most schools also were reported closed.

In Gaza City, a Palestinian flag was flying at early morning from

(Continued on page 2)

Israelis tighten cash curbs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli occupation authorities have tightened limits on Palestinians bringing money into the occupied West Bank from Jordan in a drive to prevent cash from boosting the year-old uprising, the army announced Monday.

A military order halves the amount of cash Palestinians may freely bring across the Jordan River bridges and the Egyptian border to JD 200 from Tuesday.

To bring in larger amounts, Palestinians will have to explain the origin and sign a declaration that the money does not come from "hostile" organisations.

Permission to bring in more than JD 500 would be granted only after a "security investigation," the order said.

Likud, Labour reach accord

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's ruling Likud and Labour parties reached agreement Monday to form a new "national unity" government led by right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Israel Radio reported.

Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram said the parties removed the last obstacles by agreeing that Israel would build between five and eight new settlements in the occupied territories within a year and Labour would control the powerful parliamentary finance committee.

"I do not know there is an agreement but I know the way to an agreement is open," he said.

Political sources said Likud leader Shamir would be prime minister, Labour leader and outgoing Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres would be finance minister, Labour's Yitzhak Rabin would remain defence minister and Likud's Moshe Arens would be foreign minister.

Shamir, asked by a reporter when he expected to form a government, replied with one word: "Tonight."

Avi Pazner, a top aide to Shamir, said that agreement had been reached on major issues, but that the prime minister was still trying to get smaller parties to join a broad coalition.

"We cannot drink 'l'haim' yet," he said, referring to the traditional Jewish toast "to life."

A report on army radio said the agreement was reached in a meeting between negotiators Dan Meridor of Likud and Moshe Shabat of Labour.

The radio said Labour and Likud agreed to a figure of five to eight new settlements in the occupied territories in the next year.

Labour had been trying to hold down the number of settlements. Likud had promised as many as 40 settlements to a party it was trying to lure into a coalition.

The radio report said any settlements after the first year would have to be approved by the finance ministry.

Peres agreed to the lesser post of finance minister in the new government only if his party also chaired the finance committee, giving it virtual control over the country's spending.

Israel television said that the agreement gave Shamir the right to approve which Labour member would head the committee.

Britain sees peace conference in months

LONDON (Agencies) — A British government minister said Monday that an international Middle East peace conference could be held within months.

Junior Foreign Office Minister William Walgrave, interviewed from Cairo by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said: "It would be realistic in view of the fact that the Americans have a new government to form and the Israelis have a new government to form that it's a matter of months off."

Walgrave conferred with a senior aide to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat two weeks ago in the highest-level meeting between British and PLO officials in five years.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Walgrave would probably visit Israel and the occupied territories early next year.

Walgrave said it was now up to Israel to respond to the PLO initiative and he urged Israel's friends to persuade it to come to the negotiating table.

He said that in the meantime Britain would continue to reassure Palestinians in the occupied territories that they "are not forgotten."

The Foreign Office spokesman said this included contacts between Palestinian representatives and British officials in Jerusalem.

support for relief agencies working in the occupied territories and backing for European Economic Community moves to open direct commercial links with Palestinian traders.

Arafat met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday before going on to Europe to press his campaign for an international conference.

The United States opened direct talks with the PLO in Tunis Friday and PLO officials have said Arafat wants to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand.

Walgrave said there were no immediate plans for Thatcher to meet Arafat but that the possibility was not ruled out.

Following Sunday's meeting and a state dinner held in honour of Arafat, the two leaders held a joint news conference in which Mubarak described the U.S. agreement to begin a dialogue with the PLO as a "major turning point" in Washington's policy.

"That is why we should keep it going and not listen to any ill-advised ideas for destroying this dialogue because it is important," Mubarak said.

"We want to continue this dialogue as a first step toward an international peace conference," Mubarak added.

"The international peace conference is not an alternative for direct peace talks," Mubarak said when asked about U.S. insistence on direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

"Israel and the United States should not fear the convening of the international peace conference because it will definitely lead to direct negotiations," Mubarak said.

"Achieving peace is a big success for us all including Israel," Mubarak said.

At this point, Arafat asked: "Do you think we are going to the conference to talks to ourselves?"

"No, we are going to negotiate with our enemies, or how would we make peace," he said. "We are going to make peace with our enemies."

When asked whether he is ready to deliver a speech before the Israeli Knesset (parliament) if he was invited to, Arafat said: "In my address (to the U.N. General Assembly) in Geneva, I have invited Israeli leaders to come to the United Nations to set together and make peace and I think this is better for me and for them."

PLO said planning to name government- in-exile soon

LONDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) plans to appoint a government-in-exile within two or three months following its declaration of an independent Palestinian state, the London Times reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Arafat as saying the decision had been taken because of the better than expected response to the Palestinian declaration on Nov. 15. About 70 countries have so far recognised the Palestinian state.

"The differences over the creation of the government of Palestine are almost all overcome and we will be appointing a broad based government from all the PLO groups, ranging from Muslim to Marxists, within two to three months," he said.

The government would include absentee members from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he added.

Abed Rabbo led a Palestinian delegation to talks with U.S. officials in Tunis Friday, the first direct contact between the two for 13 years.

He said the talks with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau had centred on how negotiations with the future of the occupied territories would be conducted, adding that the United States appeared to favour a bilateral solution.

The PLO has said it will only take part in an international conference with the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties to the conflict.

Israel opposes an international conference. Abed Rabbo said the Palestinian delegation had insisted the U.S. be even-handed in condemning violence in the Arab-Israeli conflict and said it would send a formal letter on the matter to Washington.

"They cannot expect us to give pledges about renouncing terrorism and not at the same time impose similar conditions on Israeli military behaviour," he said.

Abed Rabbo said PLO delegations were being sent to Europe and the Soviet Union to press for action on convening a conference.

In Abu Dhabi, a PLO official said the formation of a Palestinian government depended on the likelihood of convening a Middle East peace conference.

"The stronger the chances for an international conference, the sooner the Palestinian government will be set up," Salah Khalaf, number two in Fateh, told Reuters.

Khalaf said the U.S. dialogue with the PLO which started in Tunis Friday after a 13-year break was a blow to Israel.

"Such a blow and growing Israeli isolation could prompt a violent Israeli response that might include worldwide terrorist attacks disguised as being carried out by Palestinians," he said.

Another PLO official, Khaled Al Hassan, said that Arafat would visit Greece and Spain and possibly Italy and France in the coming months to seek European support.

U.S. declines to define 'terrorism'

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Monday it would not set out in advance which "terrorist" acts would require the United States to cut off its newly established direct contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But President-elect Bush said the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the PLO did not mean Washington was softening its opposition to "terrorism."

"I don't care whether it comes from a faction of the left or from the centre or right or wherever, I don't think that we should indicate any willingness to be tolerant of 'terrorism' from the PLO," Bush told a news conference.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, asked to clarify under what circumstances Washington would break off the talks with the PLO that began last Friday, told reporters the United States was not going to try to define what it considered a "terrorist" act to be.

He would not say if the closure was intended to foil the Israeli visit but there were no signs of protests in the village or on the roads leading to it.

Israeli organisers of the meeting said they were acting within the law but added that troops had the authority to close the area without explanation and order them out.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are barred from holding political meetings and must request army permits to hold public cultural events.

Inside the church basement some 200 Palestinians sang their national anthem, "Biladi, Biladi (my country, my country)." The Israeli anthem was not sung.

"Then Beit Sahour Mayor Hanna Khoury Atrash welcomed the visitors as 'good neighbours and peaceful guests,' and called on Israel to accept 'the challenge of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to join the peace process.'"

He sent condolences to the families of five Palestinians shot dead by troops in and around the West Bank city of Nabulus Friday.

At least 341 Palestinians have died in the year-long uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking in Arabic, Ran Cohen, a member of the Israeli parliament for the Citizens' Rights Movement, told the Palestinians he supported their campaign for an independent state and the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The speakers were frequently interrupted by youths at the back of the hall chanting, "PLO-Israel no" and Palestinian nationalist slogans.

Atrash closed the meeting by calling on local youths to continue the spirit of peace by not stoning soldiers or blocking roads for the rest of the day.

Outside in the churchyard Palestinians sang nationalist songs and waved Palestinian flag while the Israelis stood by, many looking bewildered.

The arrival of Israeli troops at the church gate stopped the celebration and residents went to their homes without incident. The Israeli convoy, which left by a back road, was stopped by soldiers but allowed to proceed.

Three journalists leaving the village by the main road were stopped by soldiers and closely questioned as to how they had entered, at what time, and how many cars had been in the convoy.

After noting their names, troops allowed them to proceed.

Israel frees U.S.-born girl, but may put her on trial

CHICAGO (AP) — A U.S.-born 14-year-old girl is free from an Israeli jail, "the victim of circumstances" and a backward system of justice, her father says.

The father, Mohammad Abu Nimreh, said the girl was arrested with a group of Palestinians who were throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers near her school in Jerusalem Dec. 10.

No one notified the family that Suzanne Abu Nimreh, born outside Chicago, had been arrested. But when she failed to return home from school, Abu Nimreh was able to trace her whereabouts by talking to fellow students.

The girl was not charged and was not allowed visitors.

But the day after her arrest, Abu Nimreh caught a glimpse of her in handcuffs being led from a courtroom.

Abu Nimreh said he did not think his daughter was among those throwing rocks.

"She doesn't even know what politics is. She is a 14-year-old kid," her father said.

Word of the arrest filtered back to Washington.

"We were advised on Tuesday that a 14-year-old girl, an American citizen, was arrested as part of a sweep by Israeli security officials," said Dave Carle, a spokesman for Senator Paul Simon of Illinois Sunday.

Simon's office asked officials at the Israeli embassy in Washington to secure the girl's release, Carle said, adding, "after all, she's just a 14-year-old girl."

On Friday, six days after arrest, Suzanne was released on bond of 3,000 shekels (about \$1,888).

"I asked the judge what the charge was and he jumped at me," said Abu Nimreh. He said "your daughter was in a gathering which is illegal and there were stones on the ground." I told him my daughter was the victim of circumstances and he said, "we're not going to discuss that now."

Carle said Simon's office was told by Israeli officials that the girl "likely would not be put on trial."

"But there's no guarantee," Carle said.

Israeli campaigners dodge army to talk to Palestinians

By Steve Weizman
Reuters

BEITSAHOUR, Occupied West Bank — Israeli peace campaigners drove on back roads Sunday to an unauthorised meeting with Palestinians in this village near Bethlehem, bypassing an army unit barring the main road.

Keeping their destination secret from accompanying journalists until the last moment, the convoy drove past rubbish dumps and was held up by a flock of sheep before entering this village to cheers and waves from the locals.

The 40 members of Peace Now and an immigrant group called Israelis by Choice, who had travelled from Jerusalem, were quickly ushered into the Greek Orthodox Church while their hosts looked nervously around for any sign of an army patrol.

A Reuters photographer arriving at Beit Sahour by the main road was turned back by soldiers at a roadblock set up at the entrance to the village and told it was a closed military area.

No closure had been publicly announced beforehand but an army spokesman later confirmed the village had been declared off limits, "because we had advance information there might be disturbances there."

Israel Radio said the second Palestinian was killed by an Israeli sniper who fired because the man was "inciting" violent protests.

The weather will continue cloudy, cold, and rainy at times. Winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Asaba, the weather will continue partly cloudy with a chance of scattered rain. Winds will be north-easterly moderate with calm sea.

Max min. temp. 7 3
Jordan Valley 12 9
Deserts 10 2
Agaba 17 9

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Agaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 89 per cent, Agaba 34 per cent

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yusuf Hourani 625478
Dr. Akram Samir 625491
Dr. Arif Al-Ashhab 625491
Dr. Adel Dahdab 625494
Firas pharmacy 625492
Ferdous pharmacy 625493

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625341.
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 625432.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 622065.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgians adopt twins returned by Israelis

SAO PAULO (R) — A Belgian couple has adopted deaf and blind twin babies who were returned to Brazil by their first adoptive parents, orphanage officials announced Sunday. They said the 11-month old baby girls of the northern city of Belem have been adopted by Guy and Christine Scheen of Liege, Belgium. An Israeli couple first adopted the babies when they were newborns last May but began negotiating for their return in June after last medical examinations in Israel revealed they were severely handicapped. The babies were returned to Belem city's orphanage in September and the adoption was cancelled. Their new father, a social worker, told reporters his intention was to show the world families with handicapped children can be happy. His wife, who is awaiting her new family in Belgium, is a nurse.

Bhutto to visit S. Arabia in January

RIYADH (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit Saudi Arabia early in January on her first official visit since being elected, visiting Pakistani Religious Affairs and Minorities Minister Khan Bahadur said Monday. "Her trip is set for the first or second week of January," the minister told Reuters. "The exact date depends on the wishes of the Saudi government." Bhutto, elected Nov. 16 to become the first woman leader of an Islamic country, has often been quoted as saying she wanted her first official visit to be to Saudi Arabia where she could visit Mecca and perform Umrah. The Pakistani minister arrived in Riyadh Friday to discuss the next Hajj.

Israeli army releases two 'suspects'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army released two of four persons it captured in South Lebanon last week on suspicion they were responsible for dozens of anti-Israeli attacks, the military spokesman said Sunday. The army spokesman said the military released the two men after concluding they not involved in any attacks. But the spokesman warned Israel would continue its campaign against resistance activity in South Lebanon. Israel arrested the four last Thursday in the village of Tibnin, beyond the Israeli-controlled "security zone" in southern Lebanon. Shortly afterwards, gunmen kidnapped three Irish U.N. peacekeepers in retaliation, but they were subsequently released. The army said the two still in Israeli custody were senior commanders in the area. One of them is Joad Kadafi, a senior figure in the Believers Resistance Front, affiliated with the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. Kadafi is suspected of planning and carrying out several attacks against Israel and its ally, the South Lebanon Army. He is also suspected of collaborating in the 1986 kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon. The soldiers, Yossi Fink and Rachamim Alsheikh, are still in captivity.

Relatives of would-be assassin freed

RASHAYA (AP) — The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) has released the mother and uncle of Soha Bishara, a woman who shot and wounded SLA commander Antoine Lahd six weeks ago, police said Monday. They said Bishara's mother, Najat Ashkar, and her uncle, Nayef Bishara, were released Sunday from Khayyam prison where they had been detained since Bishara shot Lahd at his home in the southern town of Marjayoun Nov. 8. Another suspected female accomplice, Safa Anka, of Bishara's native village of Deir Mimas, was also freed Sunday, police said. Two other suspected accomplices in the assassination attempt are still held by the SLA along with Bishara, 21. She is a member of Lebanon's Communist Party, which with other leftist factions forms the Lebanese National Resistance Front that has long been waging a guerrilla war against the SLA militia. Lahd, 61, has been in serious but stable condition in the intensive care unit of Israel's Rambam hospital in Haifa since he was shot. His aides have been interrogating Bishara at their headquarters in Marjayoun, provincial capital of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Turkish Cypriot says situation explosive

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot opposition leader Ozkiz Ozgur said Monday the situation in divided Cyprus was explosive and urged moderation on both communities. Ozgur called on Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş and Cypriot President George Vassiliou to show flexibility and goodwill at U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations, set to resume Monday. "Provocations must stop," Ozgur said, referring to a Turkish-Cypriot soldier shot and killed by a Greek-Cypriot guard on Dec. 11 in the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone in Nicosia. Speaking at a news conference, he said if both sides agreed to a federal settlement then settlers from the Turkish mainland would have to return to Turkey, except those married to Turkish Cypriots.

Aid group to pursue work in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A Norwegian organisation said Monday it would pursue its relief work in Lebanon despite accusations that the group served Americans and Jews. The charges, made by a kidnap group, were sent with a statement warning that a relief worker missing since May 21 this year would be put on trial by his kidnappers. "We will continue our medical work to help Lebanese and Palestinian people in Lebanon. We are determined to continue our work in Lebanon," said Norwegian spokesman Oyvind Sagedal. A formerly unknown group calling itself "The Soldiers of Truth," said Sunday it was holding hostage in Lebanon a missing Norwegian worker, Belgian doctor Jan Cool.

Israel's navy chief sees threat

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's navy chief was quoted Monday as saying that the Zionist state must modernise its fleet to counter a naval threat from hostile countries and groups. The English-language daily the Nation quoted Rear-Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan as saying Iran could use against Israel knowledge of sea mines it had gained in the Gulf war with Iraq. He also said Israel faced a growing threat of extremist attacks from the sea. Ben-Shoshan told army radio that Syria and Libya were also expanding their fleets.

Lebanese police arrest child thieves

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police said Monday they had arrested two men who kidnapped a two-year-old boy to sell to a woman for nearly \$2,000. They said the men seized Selman Sabeh A'Aoun near his home in mainly Muslim west Beirut Saturday but were caught before they could carry out their plan to sell him to the woman, who was unable to have children of her own.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Cabinet undergoes reshuffle

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Ministry affairs.
The new ministers were sworn in Monday afternoon before the King in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Rifai, the Royal Court chief and the King's political and special advisors.

The King entrusted Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb with the responsibility of the Armed Forces. The decision was announced during a visit the King paid to the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces.

During the visit, the King, who was accompanied by Crown Prince Hassan, met with Field Marshal Sharif Zaid and senior Armed Forces officers and reviewed with them regional issues and matters of interest to the Armed Forces.

GCC opens summit

(Continued from page 1)

live up to its stature as a super-power and stand by justice in handling the Palestinian case," Sheikh Zayed told the Gulf news agency.

He also called for an Arab summit conference to "salvage Lebanon and bring its tragic situation to an end."

The summit is expected to declare support for the newly proclaimed Palestinian state and devise diplomatic action to convene a Middle East peace conference, official sources said.

Bahrain has been spruced up for the summit. Hundreds of workers have been painting kerbs for weeks, retarring roads and beautifying Gulf-side boulevards leading to the Sheraton hotel where the leaders will stay and hold their conference.

Security forces ringed the hotel and deployed on nearby highrise buildings while military helicopters circled low overhead.

Following is a list of the cabinet following Monday's reshuffle:

Prime Minister (also Minister of Defence) Zaid Rifai
Deputy Prime Minister (also Foreign Minister) Marwan Qasem
Deputy Prime Minister (also Education Minister) Thounqan Al Hindawi

Ministers:

Interior Rajai Dajani
Labour Marwan Doudin
Social Development Fawaz Touqan
Municipal, Rural and Environment Affairs Marwan Al Hmoud
Religious Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat
Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh
Supply Fayed Al Tarawneh
Trade and Industry Hamdi Al Tabbaa
Finance and Customs Hanna Odeh
Transport and Communications Khaled Al Haj Hassan
Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib
Planning Taher Kanaan
Agriculture Yousef Hamdan
Justice Riyad Al Shakaa
Information Hani Al Khasawneh
Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad
Health Zuhair Malhas
Youth Awad Khleifat
Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakkhan
Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Al Hammouri
Tourism Yanal Hikmat

Ministers of State:

At the Prime Ministry Zuhair Ajlouni
At the Prime Ministry Abdul Salam Kanaan
Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker
(also adviser to King Hussein on Armed Forces Affairs)
Advisers to King Hussein at the Royal Court:
Adviser for Political Affairs Adnan Abu Odeh
Special Adviser Amer Khammash

11-year-old killed

(Continued from page 1)

the central telephone exchange building.

The three-day strike was called by leaders of the Palestinian rebellion after soldiers fatally shot five Palestinians in the West Bank city of Nabulus last Friday, which was one of the bloodiest days of the uprising.

Also Monday, a group of Jewish settlers staged a sit-in strike outside the military headquarters in the West Bank city of Qalqilya.

Israel Radio said the second Palestinian was killed by an Israeli sniper who fired because the man was "inciting" violent protests.

The weather will continue cloudy, cold, and rainy at times. Winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Asaba, the weather will continue partly cloudy with a chance of scattered rain. Winds will be north-easterly moderate with calm sea.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yusuf Hourani 625478
Dr. Akram Samir 625491
Dr. Arif Al-Ashhab 625491
Dr. Adel Dahdab 625494
Firas pharmacy 625492
Ferdous pharmacy 625493

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625341.
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 625432.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 622065.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
16:30 Koran
16:50 Programme review
17:00 Children programmes
17:10 Flying Doctors
17:45 Special programme on UNICEF
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Religious programme
18:20 Programme on Environment
19:10 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Local series
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 French film: "L'Addition"
19:00 News in

47 citizens to be honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 47 citizens who carried out outstanding activities during "Parks Day" on Nov. 12 will be honoured at a ceremony to be held at Amman National Park on Dec. 21 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Queen is expected to distribute certificates of merit in appreciation of these citizens' participation in different activities organised on "Parks Day" by the Greater Amman Municipality.

The Queen will first inaugurate an extension to the Hashemite Plaza downtown Amman and Al Shura Park at Jabal Nazzal before the Amman National Park ceremony which will be attended by the Greater Amman mayor and other dignitaries.

The 12-square dunum extension to the Hashemite Plaza contains flower gardens, 14 souvenir shops to sell products to tourists and a restaurant for offering Jordanian national food. Al Shura Park at Jabal Nazzal has been set up on 15.5 dunums of land provided by Greater Amman Municipality and includes an open air theatre, a multi purpose hall and a children's playground.



KING MEETS OFFICERS — His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and other senior officers during a visit to the General Headquarters (Petra photo)

Queen Noor reviews festival programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chaired the meeting of the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival and reviewed the programme of the eighth Jerash Festival scheduled to be held from July 5 to 20, 1989.

Queen Noor also reviewed the preparations the committee made for the book, photo and handicraft exhibitions.

Dance troupes from France, the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan and Indonesia will participate in the festival.



NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ABU NUSEIR TO ELECT COUNCIL: A total of 830 eligible voters from Abu Nuseir town near Amman will go to the polls Tuesday to elect members of their new municipal council. A total of 16 candidates are running for seats in the new council. (Petra)

SEMINAR IN MADABA: A seminar on the role of society towards children was held in Madaba Sunday evening in observation of the World Volunteers Day. The secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, and the police chief in Madaba district were among notables and key public figures to address the seminar. (Petra)

58,000 TREE SAPLINGS FOR SALT: The Ministry of Agriculture has allocated 58,000 fruit tree saplings to be planted in the Salt area in the coming Arbor Day celebrations which start on Jan. 15. The Department of Agriculture director said that of these saplings, 30,000 are of olive trees and 20,000 are of vine trees while the rest are of a variety of fruit trees which he said will be offered for sale to local farmers for nominal prices. (Petra)

PSD CAUTIONS DRIVERS: The Public Security Department (PSD) has issued an appeal to all motorists to take extra care while driving along highways inside the Kingdom in view of the heavy rains and bad weather condition. A statement issued Monday said that all roads in the country were passable, but some of them such as the Jerash-Irbid road, were covered with thick fog. According to the Department of Meteorology the area of Kufunje in the Ajloun district received 56.5 millimetres of rain over the past three days, the highest rate until midday Monday. More scattered rain was forecast for Tuesday.

MINISTERS MEET EGYPTIAN ENVOY: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabr and Minister of Social Development Dr. Fawwaz Touqan Monday discussed with Egyptian Ambassador Muhab Muqbel bilateral relations in the environmental protection and social work. (Petra)

JCO STOPS BARLEY SALES: An official source at the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has reported that it stopped selling barley and bran effective Monday. The source added that this responsibility has been shifted to the Ministry of Supply. (Petra)

Ma'an governor visits areas invaded by locusts

MA'AN (J.T.) — Ma'an Governor Jamal Al Momani Monday made an inspection tour of areas invaded by desert locusts in the past week. His tour included Al Innab region, some 150 kilometres east of Ma'an, where he watched ground teams at work spraying pesticides to eliminate the dangerous insects.

The governor met with officials in charge of the operations and was briefed on the progress of work.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Sunday issued an appeal to world organisations and friendly countries to provide Jordan with assistance to help drive off and eliminate desert locusts which invaded the country from neighbouring regions.

The Ministry of Agriculture, which is spearheading the operations, announced that it received a grant of \$500,000 from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and two tonnes of pesticides from Kuwait to help in the fight against locusts.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Jordanian fine arts exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition on Lord Byron, the English poet, surveying his life and work, at the British Council.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Abdullah Kamaleh and Khaled Ghawanmeh which displays 36 oil and watercolour paintings that reflect the Jordanian environment, at the Yarmouk University.

LECTURES

- ★ A lecture entitled "Byron and the Muslims" by Prof. Mohammad 'Asfour at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture on "The Jordanian-German Excavation at Um Qais" by Dr. Thomas Weber at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A documentary on Hollywood film director Howard Hawks at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Muslim scholars call for natural resources to benefit Islamic World

AMMAN (Petra) — Muslim scholars and scientists meeting in Pakistan have issued a call on their own countries and responsible organisations in the Islamic World to give more attention to the question of the transfer of modern technology to help their people adapt to the needs of modern civilisation and to utilise natural resources for the benefit of the whole Islamic World.

The meeting, held in Islamabad last week, was organised by the Amman-based Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), according to its executive director Hani Al Mulqi.

Mulqi, who attended the meeting, said that the delegates called for greater coordination and more cooperation by Islamic nations in the process of utilising science to benefit Muslim societies, especially in economy, and to help the Muslim World confront the challenges of the future.

The Islamabad meeting was the second to be organised by the IAS after the first conference that discussed food security for the Islamic World. Mulqi said in a statement upon returning to Amman from Pakistan.

He said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had sent a message to the meeting that prompted the delegates to issue their appeal to the Islamic countries.

Mulqi said the appeal will be published and distributed to Islamic countries and governments of the non-Islamic World. It included recommendations which called on Islamic countries to work out national strategies on the exploitation of science and technology and to embark on programmes for cooperation in these fields with other Islamic countries, Mulqi noted.

He said the conference urged universities and research centres in Muslim countries to link higher education with plans for comprehensive development based on science and technology, and to give special attention to educating women and giving training to university graduates to make them eligible for various occupations.

The conference underlined the importance of data banks that would provide information to planners and researchers, and urged research centres to involve themselves in the process of finding solutions to social and economic problems plaguing the Muslim World, Mulqi added.

According to Mulqi the conference

New regulations announced for vehicle licences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Drivers and Vehicles Licences Department announced Monday a set of regulations concerning the renewal of licences for different types of vehicles in the Kingdom.

According to the regulations, cars of different types as well as motorcycles and tractors will be exempted from mechanical tests during the coming year, provided that their licence plate numbers end with odd figures. The regulations excluded cars that failed to renew licences before 1989 and those manufactured in 1979 and earlier.

The regulations said that all vehicles should undergo mechanical test upon renewing licences if their numbers end with even figures, except for those manufactured in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Industrialists urge government to reduce electricity energy fees

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Industrialists Monday appealed to the government to reduce electricity and energy fees which they described as a burden on their industries.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said the government was charging industrialists less than the cost of generating and delivering electricity and that there were no plans for further subsidies.

Speaking on behalf of Jordanian industries, Imad Al Shamma', in a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry attended by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Hisham Khatib, JEA Director General Mohammad Arafah and other officials, said industrialists demanded the abolishment of "penalty" fees imposed by the JEA which he said constituted 20 to 30 per cent of the total cost of electricity consumed.

The penalty fees are in fact

higher fees than the JEA charges for the consumption of electricity at specified peak hours. The government had earlier reduced the peak hours from six to three, but industrialists are demanding a complete abolishment of these rates.

Shamma' said the abolishment of peak hour fees would allow industries to operate more shifts and increase productivity and called on the government to reconsider the rates.

He also demanded that the government reduce electricity instalment costs and exempt electrical equipment they use from custom duties.

In the meeting, attended by Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan and nearly 60 industrialists, Shamma' said

industrialists also complained about the high insurance fees that they have to pay in cash as guarantees, and asked the government to accept bank guarantees so as not to freeze their assets.

Furthermore, he said, industrialists consider the price of fuel products as very high, considering the international decline in world prices.

JEA officials responded by saying that the government was charging industrial electricity subscribers, fees that were in line with the actual cost of producing electricity.

A spokesman for JEA said fees were determined according to the cost of electricity, and that overall, industries were paying less for their electricity than commercial concerns and households who are paying higher than the cost to subsidise industries. He said industries were paying between 50 and 84 per cent of the actual cost of electricity they consume in accordance with a study carried out by the Ministry of Energy and

Mineral Resources.

The spokesman said electricity in Jordan was cheaper for industries than in other countries such as West Germany, Canada, France, The Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the United States.

He added that according to a study carried out by the ministry, electricity constituted between 1 per cent and 10 per cent of the production cost, with 60 per cent of industries costing them less than 7 per cent of their production cost.

Arafah told the meeting that there will be no more subsidies of electricity by the government. He said any reduction in electricity fees would be at the expense of other consumers.

He explained that the cost of electricity generation was 85 per cent dependent on imported material and services which, with the adjustment of the dinar's value, have become more costly.

As for oil prices, he said, they were similar to those in other oil importing countries.

PSD to get 3 helicopters from West Germany

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — West Germany is to supply Public Security Department (PSD) with three helicopters to be used in the fight against drug trafficking operations, to help organise traffic and control border areas, in accordance with an agreement signed here Monday.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Wolfgang Schreiber, head of police administration at West Germany's Ministry of Interior and PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

The agreement provides for delivery of one of the three helicopters on Dec. 22 and the other two during Majali's visit to West Germany in March 1989.

Majali voiced his gratitude to the West German government for the gift which, he said, will contribute towards greater security for Jordan.



Public Security Department Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali and Wolfgang Schreiber, head of police administration at West Germany's Ministry of Interior, sign an agreement in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

Majali expressed hope that the two countries will maintain their close cooperation in various fields.

For his part Schreiber voiced his appreciation of the role played by the PSD in ensuring security and stability for the Kingdom.

The PSD said that the coming

years will witness extensive training for staff from the police force to fly the helicopters but in the meantime pilots from the Royal Jordanian Air Force will be enlisted to do the job.

The helicopters are fitted with special cameras and other equipment to detect smugglers, drug traffickers and road accidents especially on the highways.

according to PSD officials.

Last September the PSD announced the seizure of nearly 400 kilograms of hashish and large quantities of heroin and drugs that were on their way into the country in the past summer. 51 persons were arrested, including non-Jordanians, who were involved in 23 drug trafficking cases.

Gulf artists display exceptionally interesting works

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Most people involved in any kind of art here are familiar with the works that are being produced in other Arab countries, especially those of Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt. This is not the case however with the Gulf states about whose contemporary art movement little is known outside the countries themselves.

The exhibition of the work of 18 artists from the Gulf, now on at the Jordan National Gallery until next month, thus provides a unique opportunity to see some of the best work being produced in the area, and through that art learn something about the people themselves.

The idea to hold the exhibition in Jordan initially came from Abdul Rasoul Salman, a Kuwaiti artist who was the main driving force behind the formation of this group of artists from the Gulf states. A highly realistic artist capturing facets of his countries' crafts and traditions, Abdul Rasoul Salman is a much respected and admired artist in his native Kuwait. The three oils on display here in Jordan show his unquestioned ability to portray the women of his country in their traditional dress. Posing against neutral backgrounds, these women with their faraway gazes dominate the composition which includes insets of locally made jewelry wood carving and other crafts.

Excellent work comes from Qatari born artist, Youssef Ahmad. Ahmad's extensive studies in the United States have

allowed him to produce original and exciting work that is a synthesis of both his own and Western cultures. Using black china ink, Ahmad covers his canvases with tiny spidery markings that criss cross each other in at what first seems haphazard confusion. Sometimes assuming the shapes of Arabic letters themselves, the different intensities of application of these tiny marks slowly resolve themselves into bigger shapes, letters and words. On a large scale these works achieve a formal monumentality, imposing, solid and assuredly confident, while the smaller pieces are intriguingly satisfying.

ART REVIEW

More strong work comes from Bahraini artist, Abdul Latif Mufiz. Vigorously abstract Mufiz's tryptiches achieve this strength both from their size and from their wild deep colours that mix and mingle to produce a glorious weaving of shades. Using a mixture of watercolour, fabric dye and glue, Mufiz centres his work allowing it to become a shape, a form silhouetted against the white of the paper, that glows with light like a stained glass window. One of the shapes he calls Venus, another David and the third is Death. Each carries the idea through by the use of different colours. These effective, powerful pieces will be the highlight of the show for many.

Another excellent Bahraini artist is Nasser Youssef. Highly intellectual, Youssef's clever, understated prints are full of references to cubism, to the tradi-

tions, customs and folk tales of his native Bahrain and to the universal symbols of the collective unconscious. Each print tells its own, often witty, story the main theme being the subtle control women have over men and how it is really they who are in charge.

Women are in fact well represented in this exhibition which includes work from Najat Mekkeh and Wafa Sabagh of the United Arab Emirates, Thuraya Al Baksami from Kuwait, Balqees Fakhro from Bahrain and

Mounira Mosly from Saudi Arabia and it is this latter, whose work dominates that of the five female artists. Full of different textures, Mosly's collages with their bright colours have an immediate appeal. Hung with bronze medallions, and laced about with pieces of wool that lend a certain

dynamism, Mosly captures in these works the feel of a sea-cave, of figures dancing, of a coral reef. Intensely feminine, these collages could not have been made by a man. Mosly's works are so full of energy, of undaunted and irrepressible spirit one can't help but respond to them in a very positive way.

Like Mosly, Kuwaiti born Thuraya Al Baksami is a multifaceted artist who writes extensively, illustrates books and magazines and paints. Her works, on show at this exhibition, carry within their many motifs and symbols all the influences of her background and training. Much of the symbolism is oriental yet her female figures have an iconic serenity about them, almost certainly the result of her long training in the Soviet Union.

Sculptors of the Gulf states are

represented at this show by

Kuwaiti artist, Issa Saqir. As well as more abstract pieces like his face with its door handles for ears and a lock over the mouth, Saqir has also produced some remarkable very literal figures. Inspired by the grace of the women of his country in their traditional dress, Saqir has reproduced them in ceramic, faithful in every detail. Dancing barefoot, these green glazed figures capture the pride and the modesty of the women as well as the evocative flow of their abayas gently hugging the contours of their bodies as they move rhythmically, enraptured by music one can almost hear.

The works of these artists and others too numerous to mention make up an exceptionally interesting exhibition that shouldn't be missed. The show runs until Jan. 7.

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One of the paintings on display by the Qatari artist Hassan Al Mulla

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Jordan by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Laying the foundation for unity

THE historic agreements ensuing from the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee in Baghdad are the kind of confidence-building blocks that the Arab World has been waiting for to fortify Arab efforts for unity. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, who presided over the meetings, have done a most commendable work to promote annual trade between the two countries to the tune of \$800 millions and for agreeing to accord each other's country preferential treatment in export-import operations.

We in the Arab World need to draw on the experiences of other regions of the world, most notably the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the European Economic Community countries, in furthering our efforts for ultimate unity on all levels. The infrastructure of any overall Arab unity must be constructed piecemeal and on sub-regional basis with a view to linking such sub-regional groupings of Arab countries into one entity at the end of the road. Viewed against this backdrop, the joint efforts of Iraq and Jordan to strengthen their economic and trade ties are the strongest boosters for Arab yearnings and aspirations for unity.

All of us in Jordan and Iraq and indeed elsewhere in the Arab World, who are encouraged by the achievements of the joint committee, look forward to additional measures to consolidate what has already been realised. To begin with, one would like to see other dimensions of the Iraqi-Jordanian economic and trade infrastructure be beefed up as soon as possible. For a start, land and rail transport networks need to be strengthened. Other communication networks need to be introduced. Tourism between the two countries deserves additional support with a view to serving foreign and Arab tourism as well. The national airlines of the two countries have great opportunities for cooperation and coordination in order to attract foreign tourists and shorten the geographical distance that separates the two countries. Many Jordanians have yet to see and visit Iraq. Likewise many Iraqis have not had an occasion to see Jordan. Many Arabs feel it is easier to visit foreign lands than the other parts of the Arab Homeland. What the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee is in fact trying to do is to remove the unfortunate psychological barriers that still divides the Arab World by strengthening the economic and trade contacts between them on a gradual basis. In this context, the results of the Baghdad meetings are most welcome news to all Arabs.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

IN its editorial Monday Al Ra'i Arabic daily tackled Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in the light of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee meeting that was concluded in Baghdad Sunday. The paper reiterated statements by the heads of the two delegations about the strong and brotherly ties between Jordan and Iraq and said there is genuine desire on the part of both leadership to pursue the work for further cooperation and more progress. The past higher committee meetings have no doubt achieved a great deal for both countries and the coming stage will no doubt witness a greater measure of cooperation and closer links that pave the way for complete integration, the paper said. It said that the Arab World now lives in an age full of challenges and one in which countries group themselves into political and economic blocs to survive, and this should prompt the Arabs to work together in concert to strengthen their economy and achieve further prosperity for the Arab people.

Writing in Al Ra'i, columnist Ibrahim Sakikjha focuses light on Israel's terrorism and says that it is represented in atrocities committed in the occupied territories and Israel's determination to carry on acts of aggression on the Arab World. Israeli terrorism is escalating not only in Lebanon and Palestine but could extend to other countries and the Israelis will no doubt try to link such actions to the Palestinians to mar their reputation and to adversely affect the PLO-U.S. dialogue, the writer points out. The Israelis he says might launch attacks on American interests around the world or they may do them inside the Arab World for the sake of achieving their evil goals. Sakikjha adds. He says Israel is now placed under heavy international pressure to accept the idea of an international conference for peace in the Middle East and it is more isolated than ever before and therefore is desperate and could opt any rash moves to break loose from this tight situation.

Al Dustour daily said Jordan is now full of hope for the future, seeing in the recent favourable developments a sign of hope for a solution on the Middle East problem. The paper said that King Hussein remains optimistic about these developments especially after the announcement that Washington was opening a dialogue with the PLO as a first step towards a solution. The paper referred to the King's statement to U.S. congressman Wayne Owens that Jordan is now extending full support for the PLO's endeavours which are clearly aimed at reaching peace based on justice, and to a statement by Prince Hassan in his talks with Soviet envoy Rafiq Nishanov in which he said that the uprising has succeeded in bringing about this favourable situation and paved the way for a solution of the Palestine problem. It added that the East-West detente and better understanding about regional conflicts between the two superpowers have also played their role in creating a feeling of optimism for Jordan and the Arab states at large.

Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled the Iraqi-Jordanian close cooperation in all fields describing it as a fruit of hard work on the part of the leaderships in Baghdad and Amman. The close cooperation in industrial, cultural, agricultural, financial health and other fields forecasts greater achievements and more prosperity for the Iraqi and Jordanian people in the future, the paper noted. It said that pan-Arab integration specially in the economic fields is the most effective means of strengthening solidarity among the Arab states and unifying their ranks in the face of the common challenges.

Don't let saboteurs block path to peace

By P.V. Vivekanand

THE DRAMATIC turn of events in the past few months culminating in the initiation of a dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has swept the Middle East chessboard into unrecognisable shapes and rekindled hopes for eventual peace in the region after 40 years of war and turmoil. While the one-year-old intifada in the occupied territories takes the lion's share of credit for bringing about the new situation, one cannot overlook the new-found warmth in superpower relations and the pragmatic Soviet approach to regional conflicts involving U.S.-Soviet rivalry for supremacy.

On the surface, and within the given in the conflict, things could not be better for Middle East peace, except, of course, for the defiant Israeli stand and rejection of the new Palestinian peace strategy. But then, that was only expected of the Israeli leaders, whether from the right, centre or left of the political spectrum of the Zionist state. Obviously, the fundamental pillar in any peace strategy is hopes that Washington will twist the Israeli arm when the need arises. Take that element of the situation and we are left with nothing but a superficial feeling of exhilaration and jubilation over the international recognition of the Palestinians' sincerity for peace based on international legitimacy and the flexibility evident in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech to the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva last week and his subsequent elaborations the day after the speech.

We do not know yet whether the American move to open a dialogue with the PLO is based on a realisation that there cannot be any solution to the Middle East conflict as long as the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people remain unaddressed and that there is no way the PLO could be excluded from any realistic peace effort. Down the line comes interpretations of "legitimate" rights and perceptions of a formula that satisfies all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Judging from the PLO's assessment of the outcome of its first formal contact with the U.S. held in Tunis Friday, it would seem a safe bet that there is American seriousness and sense of purpose in launching the "substantive dialogue" with the organisation. So,

let's take for granted for a moment that there indeed is a realistic American approach to the Middle East problem and that the change in superpower relations has heralded a shift of priorities in what Washington perceives as its "strategic interests" in the Middle East.

Seen from that vantage point, the biggest danger that lies ahead is actions that could abort the U.S.-PLO dialogue. Here, interpretations and linkages of possible extremist attacks could undermine the entire process. Again, one's freedom fight could be terrorism for another; that is understood, or at least that is what the American policies in the past have taught the world.

That opens up hundreds of immediate possibilities. For starters, Israel isolated as it is because of the overwhelming international support for the Palestinian cause and endorsement of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people, and spurred by fears that sooner or later it would have to withdraw from the occupied territories under international pressure, could easily employ one or the other of its super-secret agencies and carry out terrorist attacks and leave pointing fingers at the Palestinians, specifically still, at a major faction of the mainstream PLO structure. The infamous Mossad agency of Israel has done similar things in the past and could do it again. A typical example is the mysterious car bombings that have hit various parts of Lebanon; one cannot help detecting Mossad hands and Israel's drive to deepen the wedge between the various factions in Lebanon.

Another possibility is that Palestinian hardliners opposed to what they see as the PLO leadership's "concessions" to the U.S. and Israel could resort to extremism in a bid to abort the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Yet another strong fear is that of Zionist-controlled groups in the U.S. and Europe staging extremist attacks.

In essence, the list is endless and possibilities limitless. The question that remains paramount is: How objective will the U.S. be in judging whether the PLO could be linked to such actions and whether the PLO would at least be given the benefit of doubt.

Again still, will an attack against Israeli military targets in the occupied territories be construed as an act of "terrorism" with no regard whatsoever to the international conventions which do not eliminate the right of the occupied to resist the occupier with whatever means available as part of a liberation struggle?

When Arafat reaffirmed last week in Geneva that the PLO was indeed renouncing terrorism and accepting the right of all states in the Middle East to live in safety and security, the U.S. took him seriously. Otherwise, the decision to open contacts would not have come through. In the same vein, Arafat pledged Saturday to work against extremism seeping into PLO ranks but pointed out that he or any other PLO leader was unable to control "everybody." Is the U.S. administration willing to accept Arafat's words in the same letter and spirit that they were delivered?

Having seen a definite, systematic, unmistakable pattern of moderation on the part of the PLO leadership since the Palestine National Council met in Algiers in November, it should now be clear to Washington and the rest of the international community that the most prevailing thought of the organisation's leadership is to thwart any action that could mess up things and throw a spanner in the works of whatever has been achieved so far. But, if Washington adopts a stand as outlined by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy Saturday — that Washington's own interpretation of what Arafat said would be the guiding force in American judgments of "terrorist attacks" — there is no chance that the new-found dialogue would last, simply because possibilities are numerous of "some known elements traceable to the PLO" could be linked to some act of extremism.

Again the word "traceable" is open to wide interpretations. Would it mean, in the American way of thinking, that if a splinter group of the PLO does something the PLO leadership would be held accountable, and that would be the end of the American-PLO dialogue?

If that is what is going to happen, then all hell will break loose if only because it would be a firm signal to the Palestinians that moderation does not pay.

Political ethics issue moves to centre stage in Japan

By Irene M. Kunii
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The issue of ethics in politics and government has moved to centre stage in Japan after revelations that top officials reaped large profits from access to unlisted stocks and other questionable money-raising activities.

Government leaders are moving swiftly to prop up waning public confidence in the administration and politics, adopting new disciplinary guidelines for public servants and setting up lawmakers' groups to deliberate political ethics.

At least 16 influential politicians, including Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and two former top bureaucrats have been linked to purchases of stock in Recruit-Cosmos Co., a real estate company, before it was offered for public sale in October 1986.

Immediately after its listing, the stock rose sharply in value and earned large profits for the holders, many of whom had been given interest-free loans by the company's parent company for the purchases.

Although the transactions were not illegal under Japanese securities law, opposition politicians and other critics charge that officials were offered the lucrative shares in exchange for special favours or services.

Japanese politicians, particularly members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, are known for their extensive fund-raising activities, including heavy pressure on businesses to buy tickets for fund-raising parties.

But the Recruit-Cosmos stock scandal, combined with reports of lavish entertainment of officials by private concerns, has incited public outrage.

Questions

The nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun recently commented: "cases of unethical behaviour by

public officials are coming to light one after another in the Recruit stock scandal. Should we accept this as a natural political climate of Japan? ...Receiving money from concerned industries. Being wined and dined at restaurants and pubs. Invitations to golf. Asking business people to purchase unlisted stocks and other questionable money-raising tickets. These are things former prime ministers prohibited public officials from doing."

Legislator Michio Watanabe, head of the ruling party's policy affairs research council and one of the 16 top politicians linked to the stock scandal, argued that politicians are under pressure to raise large amounts of money to finance their election campaigns, give to constituents at funerals and weddings, and pay for office staff in access of the two covered by the government.

"It costs a lot of money to be a politician and it's necessary to hold (fund-raising) parties, lots of parties, parties," he told reporters Friday.

Also Friday, the cabinet adopted a five-point guideline devised by Prime Minister Takeshita that urges officials to refrain from buying unlisted stock, helping politicians organise fund-raising parties or receiving favours like rounds of golf or dining from private firms.

The prime minister said the move came after "the people's mistrust was aroused by the act of seeking personal profits," by two former bureaucrats.

Former education vice minister Kunio Takaishi and former vice minister of labour Takashi Kato were among those who bought shares of Recruit-Cosmos while in office.

Education Minister Gentaro Nakajima told parliament that after Takaishi left the ministry to run in the next lower house election, about 20 ministry officials sold tickets to fund-raising parties on the former vice minister's behalf.

Mistrust

The nationally circulated Mainichi Shimbun took a critical

stance towards the prime minister's new guideline. "Does Takeshita seriously believe that his action will placate the public?" it asked in an editorial.

"Slack official discipline has reached extremes involving those at the top of the bureaucracy, undermining the people's trust in government service in general," it added.

Public support for Takeshita's

government has dropped to 18 per cent from 30 per cent when he assumed office one year ago, according to a survey released last week by the Mainichi. Other polls also showed sharp declines in Takeshita's popularity following the stock scandal.

Takeshita, Watanabe and former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa have all admitted that aides purchased Recruit-Cosmos

stock. Miyazawa became the first cabinet-level casualty of the scandal when he stepped down last week after making conflicting explanations of his role in parliament.

Watanabe, a former trade and finance minister, brushed aside allegations of political misconduct. His son, employed as his aide, reportedly earned 26 mil-

lion yen (\$213,000) in the sale of Recruit-Cosmos stock.

"It's not a crime because there were no favours provided in return," Watanabe told reporters. "The purchase of stocks and profiteering (by public officials) in return for special favours is against the law in Japan... but it also depends on how close they (the officials) are to the firms involved," he said.

Arab-Islamic movement in Israel

By Marda Dunsky

IN THE run-up to last month's elections, the Islamic movement in Israel issued a call to Muslim Arab voters to go to the polls and vote for the candidates of their choice. And among those parties vying for Arab support, the Progressive List for Peace was especially active in courting the religious voter.

Yet the results fell short of the expectation that the Arab vote could make a crucial difference. Nearly a quarter of the 320,000 eligible Arab voters stayed away from the polls, translating into three to four lost mandates. And one of the losers was the Progressive List, whose representation in the Knesset dropped from two seats to one in the process.

Now, in the wake of these failures, one of the Islamic movement's chief figures, Sheikh Abdullah Darwish — who put his name to the declaration encouraging Muslims to vote — says he plans to assemble the leaders of all Arab political parties and movements within Israel for discussions on the formation of a united "Arab peace camp."

"Soon I will call for all the Arab leaders in the state of Israel to sit together to discuss and agree on the minimum that will unify them," Darwish said in a recent interview at his home in Kafr Kasem.

"I will call all of them to sit

together, all the political streams in the Arab sector — the Progressive List, Democratic Front, Nakba, the Sons of the Village — because I see that everyone supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and everyone agrees on achieving peace."

The extent to which Darwish can serve as a unifying factor, however, is complicated by the fact that the Islamic movement, like the Arab sector of which it is a part, is not monolithic but rather divided into different streams, according to Joseph Ginat, deputy adviser to Shimon Peres on Israeli Arab affairs.

The Arab sector as a whole can be viewed as having three ideological components — with those promoting what he calls "Israeli-Arab nationalism" comprising the largest faction, and those advocating hardline Palestinian nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism comprising two smaller factions. Similarly, the Islamic movement itself is divided among those advocating Palestinian nationalism, so-called "returnees" to the faith more concerned with Islam as a way of life and a much smaller segment of Sufis, Ginat said.

Further, not only do its leaders and experts like Ginat decline to attach numbers to the movement (although it is believed to have followers in the tens of thousands), it is acknowledged

that no central unifying leadership exists within the movement itself.

"Each village and each town has its own leadership," said Sheikh Hashem Mahajneh, one of the leaders of the Islamic movement in Umm Al Fahm, adding that other main centres of the movement are Nazareth, Tiber, Tira, Kafr Kana and Kafr Kasem.

The absence of central leadership and consensus were apparent in the contrast between Mahajneh's and Darwish's readiness to talk about the issue of an independent Palestinian state. While Darwish talked about Palestinian independence at length, Mahajneh declined to comment on the issue. "We have no position to state right now," he said. "We'll have to wait and see what happens."

Just why so many Arab voters stayed away from the election is also a matter open to interpretation. While Ginat said that some local sheikhs told their followers not to vote, Mahajneh maintained that no specific boycott directives were issued in the name of the movement. "Some voted and some didn't — that's only natural," he said, adding that the approximate 75 per cent turnout rate among Arab voters was consistent with past years.

Darwish, however, had his different idea.

"To the sorrow of many, most

of the Muslim didn't find a single political body in Israel that advances the interest of peace, that advances the legitimate rights of the Palestinians," he said.

Coupled with a sense of despair and lack of faith in politicians, he noted, was also the fact that the declaration he signed in the name of the movement did not specify one party over another. "They had the freedom to do what they wanted, but they didn't go," he said.

Looking ahead to his impending call for an Arab peace camp, Darwish said he hoped its formation would "unify the Arab strength in Israel" while at the same time encourage the Jewish peace camp to coalesce.

Darwish contended that the Islamic movement intends to serve as a unifying force rather than seek political legitimacy in its own right, despite the fact that it announced in its declaration to Muslim voters that it will seek to contest the municipal elections in the spring.

"We in the Islamic movement will be a force," in such an effort toward unification, he said, "but we don't seek one Knesset seat."

"We only want to move forward," he said, saying his job will be to try to get Arab leaders in Israel to agree on the minimum, to stop looking at the past and start looking at the future.

"Our existence as Palestinians in Israel depends on our unity," he said — The Jerusalem Post.

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Papandreou survives budget crisis

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou's socialist government, hit by economic scandals and high-level resignations, survived a crucial budget debate Sunday night, ensuring he will go on ruling the country.

He hailed as a significant victory parliament's approval of his administration's budget, averting his threat that the government would resign if the measure failed.

On the eve of the debate, Papandreou said he regarded the budget vote as an expression of confidence for his government, six months before national elections are to be held.

"I consider the budget vote as a vote of confidence for myself and the government... if the budget is not passed the government will resign," Papandreou said in a televised statement Saturday.

All 156 deputies of Papandreou's ruling PASOK Party voted for the bill. The government had needed 151 votes in the 300-seat parliament.

"All PASOK deputies are proud that our parliamentary group passed united not only the budget but also gave the government a vote of confidence... this is a message of victory," Papandreou told reporters after the vote.

"The effort to destabilise Greek politics failed tonight. I call upon the people and the parliament to be on the alert since the destabilisation efforts are expected to continue," he added. He did not elaborate.

On Saturday Papandreou said that people close to him had tried to undermine him and defended his government's handling of recent economic scandals. Five ministers have resigned.

Alternate Defence Minister Stathis Yotas said in his letter of resignation to Papandreou Wednesday that the government was corrupt.

"I refuse as a member of the government to be identified by a group of cheats and embezzlers of the public wealth," he said.

In mid-October a \$200 million scandal erupted at the privately owned Bank of Crete and two senior government members — Justice Minister Agamemnon Koutsyorgas and Public Order Minister Anastassios Schiotis resigned over the handling of the case.

In early December a scandal broke in the state-owned Greek arms industry (EVO) concerning commission payments of \$6 million.



Andreas Papandreou

Foreign ministers seek to end 43-year-old feud

Soviet Union, Japan discuss peace pact to normalise relations

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union and Japan, still technically at war 43 years after World War II ended, resumed discussions on a peace treaty Monday.

Strategic Studies has put Soviet strength in the region, excluding those on the Sino-Soviet border, at about 390,000 troops, 345 naval vessels and 2,500 combat aircraft.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze held talks with Japanese officials on the main problem delaying the peace treaty and better relations — a group of islands occupied by Soviet troops in 1945 which Tokyo still claims.

About 3,000 officers continued to surround the Soviet embassy in central Tokyo to guard against possible harassment by rightwing organisations. Police turned away cars approaching the hall nearby where the talks are being held. Shevardnadze's wife Nanuli toured a Buddhist temple in central Tokyo and visited a pearl shop.

The dispute, one of the last diplomatic loose ends from the war, has stunted trade and other contacts between the two countries. Tokyo has refused to sign a peace treaty until the islands, north of the Japanese island Hokkaido, are returned.

Shevardnadze, on his first visit to Tokyo for nearly three years, held two sessions of talks with his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno. Details of the negotiations were not immediately available.

The Soviet Union is eager for greater access to Japanese technology and investment funds, while Japanese companies are increasingly eyeing the huge Soviet market lying tantalisingly close across the sea of Japan.

"The aim of my visit this time is to open a new chapter in Japan-Soviet relations," Shevardnadze was quoted by a Japanese foreign ministry official as telling Uno at the start of the talks.

The official said Shevardnadze told Uno they should meet more often to bring about a summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

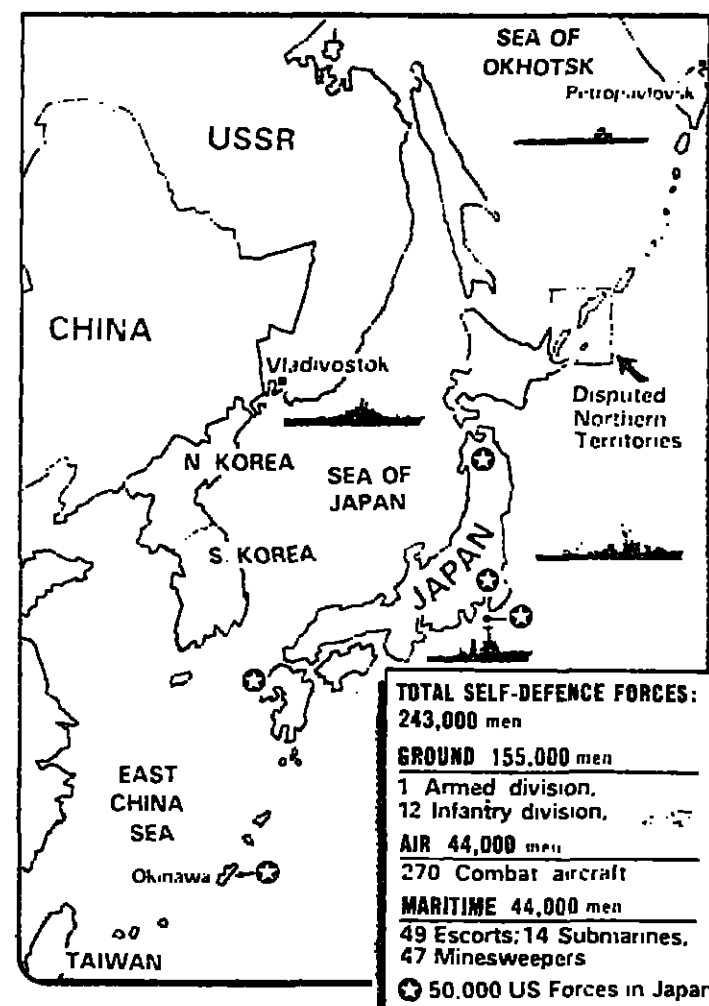
Uno said Japan welcomed Gorbachev's recent speech at the United Nations, in which the Kremlin leader proposed a unilateral reduction of half a million soldiers in Europe, but wanted a similar reduction in Soviet forces in East Asia.

Shevardnadze replied that Soviet forces in East Asia were there to match the naval strength of the United States. But he added that he saw no problem in making public the strength of Soviet forces in the region.

"The important thing is to have a discussion with all parties concerned," he said.

Moscow has never formally released information on total military forces based in Soviet East Asia.

An estimate by the London-based International Institute for



Vanuatu president under house arrest

PORT VILA, VANUATU (AP) — President George Sokomanu was under house arrest Monday following a failed coup attempt in this South Pacific nation, and 16 other rebel politicians were jailed, according to state-run radio Vanuatu.

Australian diplomats in Vanuatu could not confirm the report, which was made available to the AP in Sydney, Australia.

The sequence of events reportedly began Friday when Sokomanu ordered parliament dissolved and dismissed elected Prime Minister Walter Lini, citing a failing economy and what he viewed as an undemocratic by-election.

Lini, who has governed since independence, refused to step

down, saying Sokomanu's action was illegal and unconstitutional. Sokomanu Sunday swore in a five-member interim government, pending fresh national elections in February. Lini had them arrested.

News reports, monitored in Sydney, indicated Sokomanu was in custody at the state house with a paramilitary guard and that 16 others were in jail.

Sokomanu had named Barak Sope as interim prime minister. Sope and Lini have been vying for power for a year. Sope contended Lini was incapable of leading the country because of a stroke he suffered in 1986.

Earlier Monday, Sokomanu was censured by the supreme court, which banned him from

talking about or pursuing his claim that he had dissolved parliament and appointed Sope and a five-member administration.

Chief Justice Frederik Cooke ruled that Sokomanu had acted illegally and unconstitutionally and that the move had not affected parliament, which had steadfastly ignored Sokomanu's order.

The Australian news agency AAP said police denied reports that Sokomanu had been placed under house arrest.

The AP made several attempts to contact officials in Vanuatu, but all calls went unanswered or failed to connect.

AAP said armed troops were manning roadblocks in the capital of 20,000 and that au-

thorities had banned sales of liquor in an effort to prevent violence. Many shops and offices remained shuttered, in anticipation of possible violence, AAP said.

Deputy police commissioner Harold Thompson said Sope and others would be charged Tuesday.

"They will include unlawful assembly," he told AAP. "We are also looking at intention to overthrow the present (Lini) government... that's a treason charge."

He indicated that further arrests would be made. Australian newspapers questioned whether Vanuatu was following Fiji's example, which last year experienced two military coups.

Burmese army warns parties

RANGOON (R) — Burma's military rulers warned Monday "it is no time to incite the people" and said parties must obey strict laws for political activities which forbid them to criticise each other.

"If (politicians) want democracy it is necessary for them to abide by the regulations, disciplinary rules, orders, laws and declarations," an editorial in the Working People's Daily said.

Attacks on individuals or other parties were forbidden, the state-run paper stressed.

It was not clear why the warning was issued now by the military, which has effectively held power in Burma since 1962 and only this year scrapped its one-party socialist system.

More than 160 parties have registered with the election commission under rules announced after a Sep. 18 military takeover that crushed a public uprising for democracy.

Many were established as a pretext for people to meet and discuss political issues relatively freely in the climate of repression following the takeover.

The warning follows a split in the biggest opposition group, the National League for Democracy (NLD) and a tour by NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi that drew big crowds in the streets.

Under emergency regulations a curfew is imposed and no more than four people may meet in a public place at any time.

Aung San Suu Kyi said in a

telephone interview a number of NLD members had been arrested after her campaigning trip through the Moulmein area south-east of Rangoon "for the simple reason that crowds gathered to greet me."

She added: "If people come out to greet us it is nothing to do with our league — we didn't ask them, they just came."

Under the circumstances, she said: "We have to question whether free and fair elections are possible and we are protesting about this."

General Saw Maung, leader of the military council, told reporters in Rangoon last week that elections would definitely be held, but he still could give no date.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Clouthier continues hunger strike

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Former presidential candidate Manuel J. Clouthier entered the fourth day of a hunger strike Sunday and said he will continue the fast until "Mexico has a fair, honest electoral law."

Clouthier was the candidate of the conservative National Action Party in July 6 elections won by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which has not lost a major election in its 59 years of rule. Both Clouthier and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who ran for a left-of-centre coalition and came in second in official results, contend there was widespread fraud in the election and vote count. "Carlos Salinas de Gortari has formal but not moral authority to govern the country," Clouthier told a news conference Saturday at the tent where he is staging the hunger strike.

Crowe welcomes Soviet troop cuts

NEW YORK (R) — The United States' top military man welcomes Mikhail Gorbachev's troop-reduction plan and believes the Kremlin leader is sincere in his vow to cut Soviet forces by 500,000. Time magazine said Sunday. Admiral William Crowe, who as chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff is senior uniformed military advisor to President Reagan, was quoted as saying: "If he (Gorbachev) makes good on his promise, I would consider it a very welcome move... personally I suspect he'll go through with it."

Crowe said in an interview with Time that the reduction would not redress the Soviet advantage over the West in conventional forces in Europe, but... "Removing tank divisions, cutting people and taking out some of the 'offensive' systems like bridging equipment will change the military calculus."

Nice blast kills immigrant

NICE (R) — One person was killed and ten others injured Monday when an explosion ripped through an immigrants' hostel in this southern French city, police said. A police spokesman said the cause of the explosion, which took place just after 0300 (0200 GMT), was not yet known. Police declined to identify the man who died in the blast. The explosion was followed by a fire that severely damaged the Sonatrach hotel, which housed 100 immigrants working in Nice. Several cars in nearby streets were damaged. The hotel was bombed in May in an incident that was seen to reflect growing tension between rightwing French people in the city and immigrants, mainly from North Africa.

IRA bomb hits army homes

BELFAST (AP) — A car bomb exploded Sunday night in Londonderry, damaging more than 100 homes, including some occupied by British soldiers and their families, police said. The only casualties were a 12-year-old disabled boy and his mother in a civilian family, who were taken to a hospital and treated for shock, police said. The outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) telephoned a warning that a bomb would explode in 20 minutes in a housing project in the city's waterside district, but it exploded after 15 minutes, police said. It was the fourth attack on British army homes in the province in the past month. The IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland and unite it with the Irish Republic, Friday issued a one-week deadline for the wives and children of British soldiers to get out of what it called the "war zone" and return to the British mainland.

Marcos leaves hospital

HONOLULU (AP) — Ferdinand Marcos left the hospital for home Sunday, where his doctors said the deposed Philippine president will remain under 24-hour medical care for a life-threatening heart ailment. Doctors said Marcos' condition has improved since he was admitted to Saint Francis Medical Centre Dec. 9, but his heart condition would require a doctor's supervision. Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for 20 years before his overthrow in February 1986, has pleaded ill health while putting off an appearance before a New York court for arraignment on racketeering charges. A court-appointed doctor had concluded, before his most recent hospitalisation, that he was well enough to travel. Marcos, 71, was wheeled in a stretcher from Saint Francis Medical Centre Sunday afternoon and placed in a private ambulance. Marcos' mouth hung open and his eyes gazed straight up, and he didn't acknowledge reporters' questions.

Egypt sitting on art treasure few know of

By John Rogers
Reuter

CAIRO — With paintings by impressionist masters fetching record prices on a booming international art market, Egypt is sitting on a little-known goldmine.

At up to \$10 billion, the estimated value of the contents of just two Cairo art museums approaches a quarter of the country's foreign debt.

The Mohammed Mahmoud Khalil Museum, a small Moorish-style palace in the island residential area of Zamalek, houses impressionist and post-impressionist works worth anything from \$500 million to \$5 billion.

"I think we have one of the most important collections in the world," said museum Director Ahmed Sami, who puts the value at \$500 to \$700 million.

"Its contents have no equal in any other museum," said Abdul Wahab Morsi, head of the government museums department, who says the collection could be worth \$3 to \$5 billion.

The most valuable piece is an 1889 painting by Paul Gauguin, "Life and Death," worth an estimated \$60 million.

Then there is a Van Gogh valued at 30 million, a painting in coloured inks on wood by Toulouse-Lautrec and more than 400 other canvases — not to mention several Rodin bronzes — which could fetch huge sums at auction.

Yet only 30 to 40 people, mostly foreigners and art students, visit the museum on an average day. There is no catalogue, not even a typed list of

contents. They ran out two years ago.

An equally valuable collection of paintings, sculptures and other works gathers dust under lock and key at the former Gezira Museum near Cairo's new opera house in Zamalek.

The Gezira Museum opened more than 30 years ago to house art treasures sequestered from Egypt's wealthy elite after the 1952 revolution which overthrew the monarchy.

Little known and rarely visited, it closed its doors four months ago for a two-year inventory which Morsi says will enable authorities to find out just what Egypt owns.

A Rubens, a Renoir, a Delacroix, a Manet and sketches by Picasso are among more than 700 paintings in the Gezira storerooms.

The government couldn't afford to organise its treasures earlier, Morsi said.

"When the museum started, it was a big showroom for sequestered collections but there was no awareness of the artistic or historical value of the pieces."

"Now we are more aware. We have developed our sense of culture. We want to protect it. But we need the financing to do so."

The long-term aim is to create an international museum worthy of treasures that few Egyptians appreciate.

The Mahmoud Khalil emerged briefly from obscurity last month when French experts authenticated Van Gogh's 1878 "Flowers and Vase," stolen in 1978 and recovered two years later in

Kuwait. The thief broke in at night through an unbarred window. After that, the first security alarm system was put in.

Now, with impressionists attracting thieves elsewhere — three Van Goghs were stolen last week from a Dutch museum — there are plans to increase surveillance with a television system.

The museum houses a collection left to the state by the late Mohammed Mahmoud Khalil, senate president under King Farouk and one of Egypt's few experts on European art. Rare works by artists of the French school were his favourites.

Few of the paintings are in the reference books.

"Some are not well-known because they are not well publicised. It's unknown because it's sitting here, not in the West," says Hugh Sowden, a British artist and teacher.

Some are preliminary studies for better-known final works, including small bronze advance works for two famous Rodin sculptures, "The Kiss" and "The Thinker."

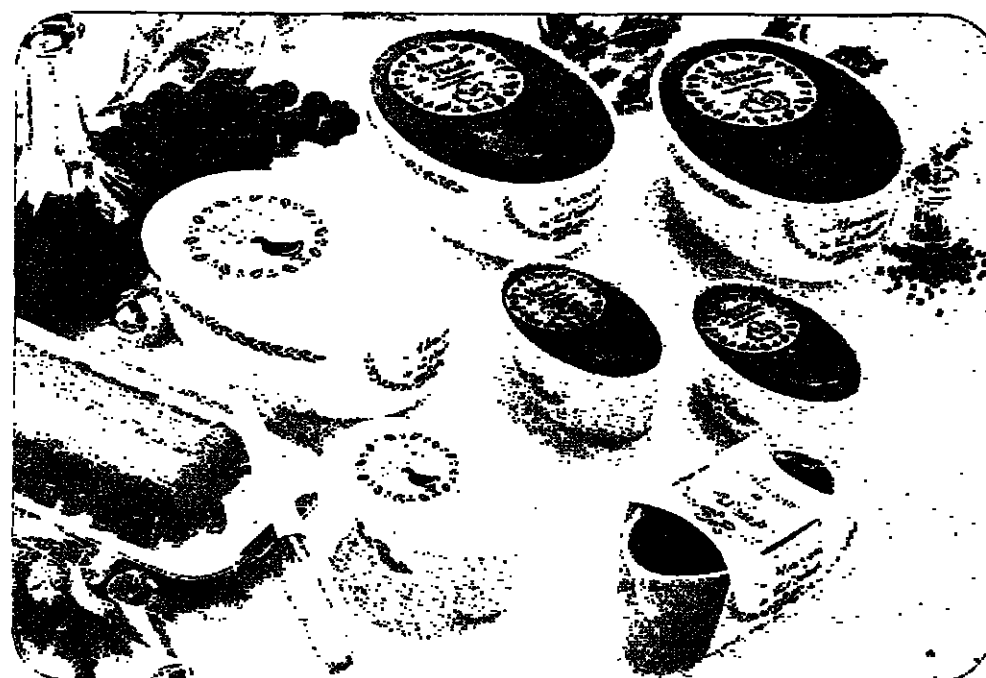
Sheer abundance strikes the visitor.

One room contains three Sisleys, a Renoir, three Monets, two Gauguins and the Van Gogh. Five small canvases by Delacroix adorn one wall. Nearby are a Degas, four Millers and a Boudin beach scene.

A small corridor off a dingy staircase boasts a Delacroix, a Corot, an Ingres and a Rousseau.

Among cases of miniatures, Chinese pottery and antique perfume bottles is a clutch of paintings by orientalis.

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To compensate for natural disasters

FAO: World food production needs record boost next year

ROME (R) — The world must grow an extra 225 million tonnes of cereals in 1989 to meet food needs and boost dangerously low stocks after losses from natural disasters, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Monday.

"As we enter the new year, the world food situation is at a crucial turning point between food security and supply shortages," FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said.

"Once abundant food reserves... have now been depleted to their lowest levels since the world food crisis of the early 1970s and are below the minimum needed for food security," he noted.

His statement painted a bleak picture of the world food situation after a year of crop losses from drought, floods and hurricanes and a locust invasion which Saouma termed the most extensive in recorded history.

Saouma said global cereal pro-

duction had declined in two successive years for the first time since World War II. Output in 1989 would have to be 13 per cent higher than in 1988, equivalent to an unprecedented rise of 225 million tonnes.

"While the world is not facing an immediate food crisis, there are reasons for concern in 1989," he said.

"The outcome of next year's harvest will be crucial," he warned.

Saouma said better harvests in 1988 in Africa, Asia and Western Europe had been unable to offset losses in the Americas and in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

He cited floods in Bangladesh

and Sudan, hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean and a severe drought in North America which cut cereal output there by one third.

Locust plagues may continue for 3 years

Saouma said the FAO expected locust plagues which have afflicted Africa, some Middle East countries and the Caribbean to continue for at least two to three years.

"So far, through concerted action, crop losses have been limited. But swarms have the potential to cause enormous damage," he said.

On the positive side cereal production had risen by three per cent in developing countries in 1988, Saouma said.

"Even then, food production is not keeping pace with population growth in two-thirds of the countries in Africa, about half in Latin America, the Caribbean and the

Near East, and a third in the Far East," he said.

The FAO is the United Nations' biggest specialised agency and the world's main supplier of food aid. But Saouma said the agency's disaster relief stockpile, the international emergency food reserve (IEFR), was exhausted.

"For the past two years, the IEFR resources have fallen short of mounting emergency needs and the situation can best be described as a hand-to-mouth operation," he pointed out.

Saouma appeals for funds

He also appealed again to member countries to pay up their arrears to the FAO, which he said had experienced the worst financial year since its foundation in 1945.

Saouma said 80 countries, more than half the membership, were in arrears this year by a total \$111 million. The United States owed \$78 million of this.

Herrington believes OPEC is doomed

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington is leaving office convinced that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is doomed.

"In the long run, the OPEC

group cannot survive," Herrington said in a recent interview marking the end of his nearly four-year tenure. "Cartels do not work. They have never worked in history."

Several of OPEC's larger mem-

bers have new incentives to produce oil, rather than comply with last month's decision by the group to limit production to 18.5 million barrels a day, he said, citing these examples:

Venezuela has a major stake in the Cito chain of U.S. service stations and despite previous support of OPEC, the South American nation's "future is here, not with OPEC."

Saudi Arabia is buying service stations and a refinery from Texaco "and that's a major change."

"We've got two countries who have been at war for eight years (Iran and Iraq) with \$40 to \$50 billion in war debt, and a reconstruction budget that is going to be horrendous, with one thing to sell — oil."

Herrington contends that ownership of U.S. distribution facilities by overseas producers should be welcomed because of the incentives it gives producers to bring oil to market.

"It's good for the United States and it's good for Saudi Arabia. No. 1, it's a guaranteed market for Saudi Arabia and no. 2, it's a guaranteed supply for us," Herrington said.

Those who fear a resumption of the oil shocks of the 1970s don't realise "we live in a fundamentally different world," he said.

In the first half of 1986, the oil industry was devastated by the collapse of crude oil from above \$27 a barrel to less than \$12 (measured by average refiner cost). It now sells for about \$15 a barrel.

Imports have risen from less than 30 per cent of U.S. consumption in 1985 to more than 40 per cent now. At the same time, U.S. production has fallen by a million barrels of crude a day to a little more than eight million barrels.

While U.S. producers of crude oil have pleaded for trade protection, Herrington and President Ronald Reagan maintained that quotas or tariffs would harm the U.S. economy more than they would help the oil industry.

On other issues, Herrington said the U.S. economy has to become more energy-efficient.

The nation has made big gains in efficiency. The economy in 1987 was 40 per cent larger than it was in 1973, but it used only two per cent more energy. However, the gains are slowing down. West Germany and Japan use energy with twice the efficiency of the United States.

Advocacy groups have blasted Herrington and his predecessors under Reagan for sharply curtailing spending on conservation, efficiency and renewable sources of energy.

Pillsbury agrees to \$5.68b takeover

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The huge Pillsbury food company gave up its 24-month fight and agreed to a \$5.68 billion takeover by British conglomerate Grand Metropolitan Plc, two days after major courtroom setbacks.

Grand Met will purchase all outstanding shares of Pillsbury common stock for \$66 per share in cash. \$3 higher than Grand Met's most recent tender offer, which was made last week.

Lawyers, investment bankers and company officials worked out the deal's details Saturday and Sunday, and Pillsbury's board approved the deal Sunday afternoon.

A judge in Delaware, where Pillsbury is incorporated, said earlier he would issue preliminary

injunctions Monday to invalidate Pillsbury's so-called "poison pill" defence, under which Pillsbury would have made its Burger King restaurant division into a separate, publicly traded company.

Ridding itself of Burger King would have made Pillsbury less attractive as a takeover target.

Pillsbury decided to deal because the "pill" is only bargain-chip was gone, said Stephen Carnes, an analyst with Piper Jaffray and Hopwood in Minneapolis.

The takeover of Pillsbury is the latest in a wave of mergers and recapitalisations that have swept through the foods industry in recent years.

It also comes less than a month after another giant of the indus-

Saudi bond scheme exceeds target

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's ground-breaking 30 billion riyal (\$8 billion) bond programme will slightly exceed its target by the end of its first year, a senior official said Monday.

The governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), Hamad Al Sayari, told Reuters in an interview that the value of bonds placed by Dec. 31 would exceed the 30 billion riyal figure announced last year in the 1988 budget.

The bonds, initially offered only to Saudi banks and other local investors, were mooted as a

way to bridge a 35.9 billion riyal (\$9.6 billion) spending gap when the 1988 budget was announced last December.

First issued in June, the bonds represent the first major Saudi government borrowing in 25 years.

Sayari said a large portion of the bonds had been taken up by two government organisations, the General Organisation for Social Insurance and the Pension Fund, but declined to give an exact figure.

"It's much less than two thirds," he said.

Called "development bonds,"

they are officially linked to the profits on unspecified development projects, but bankers say their yield has corresponded closely to a small margin over like-dated U.S. treasury notes.

Sayari said the yield was competitive and no changes in pricing were being studied.

"The response from banks has been satisfactory and what we wanted. All that seems to be lacking now is the secondary market," he said.

"The mechanics are still being worked out. The banks weren't ready for it, it was new for them," he noted.

He said banks would soon be offering the bonds to corporations and high net-worth individuals in amounts of one million riyals or more.

Only Saudi nationals and Saudi companies will be allowed to buy the bonds, he said, and they will be prohibited from reselling them to non-Saudi corporations and individuals.

Asked if the bonds would be issued again in 1989, Sayari said: "The bonds were issued to cover a deficit in the budget. If there is a deficit next year, then it's likely they will be offered."

No deal in sight with IMF

Egypt seals old debt rescheduling

CAIRO (R) — Debt-burdened Egypt has set a formal seal on an old rescheduling agreement with Western governments with no sign of progress towards a new relief package.

The conclusion, announced Monday, of an accord with Japan rescheduling about \$318 million in official debt completed deals with 13 creditor governments under a May 1987 Paris Club agreement.

That framework pact gave Egypt, short of hard currency and burdened by \$43 billion in mostly official debt, easier terms on more than \$6 billion in instalments due from January 1987 until last June 30.

Western analysts say that since July, Cairo has either defaulted

on payments or paid only those it deems priority.

They believe that with continued understanding from Western governments, which see Egypt as a vital strategic ally, Cairo may continue on the same path for months.

But it will take care not to default on instalments which carry penalties if unpaid, including payments on its \$4.5 billion debt to the United States for old purchases of arms, they say.

Under U.S. law, aid is suspended to countries which fall more than a year in arrears.

The next instalment on U.S. military debt falls due next July. It would be included in any rescheduling of 1989 payments — but Egypt first needs a new accord with the so-called Paris

Club of Western creditor governments.

Government ministers have said Egypt intends to seek Paris Club rescheduling on about \$4 billion of instalments due from last July 1 until the end of 1989.

But it first needs to break an apparent stalemate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a vital precondition for debt relief — a standby credits accord which would also serve as a seal of approval for its economic policy.

Intermittent secret negotiations have proceeded at snail's pace, with no public indication of progress.

The IMF wants tough policy changes by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to whittle down a five billion pound (\$2.2 billion)

budget deficit. They include raising domestic interest rates, cutting state subsidies on food and fuel and scrapping remaining artificial exchange rates.

Mubarak, arguing for slow, moderate reforms, has vowed not to harm Egypt's army of poor but jeapordise stability in the Arab World's most populous country.

He accused the IMF three months ago of acting like a doctor administering a course of economic medicine in one huge dose.

Last month, a 1987 Egypt-IMF standby accord expired with \$150 million in credits undistributed because Cairo failed to meet agreed performance targets.

Diplomats say the government shows no sign of urgency in trying to get a new deal in place.

Banker proposes plan to cut Third World debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading international banker has a new plan to reduce the burden of debt owed by the Third World without cost to taxpayers in the United States and other creditor countries.

"The objective of lower debt service is sound and necessary for some (debtor countries), at least for a time," says Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, chairman of First Boston International. "But the idea of using taxpayers' dollars to achieve what the market is already doing, albeit partially, is not."

Third World debt is expected to reach \$1.2 trillion by the end of this year, and debt service has become an increasing drain on nations that can least afford it.

The World Bank estimates that in 1987 Third World transfers to richer countries were \$29 billion.

Traditionally the flow had been in the other direction, in the same way that money flowed from Europe to the United States when it was developing in the 19th century.

In an article for the current issue of the magazine "International Economy," Kuczynski proposes dividing the debts of countries such as Brazil and Mexico into two parts. Interest payments and delayed payments of principal on the first part would continue, but with the size of the debt discounted — possibly by 40 cents on the dollar.

How much of the debt that portion should contain would be established in a deal between the commercial banks and the World Bank, which is owned by 151 governments. They include both debtor and creditor countries.

On the second part, Kuczynski would require payments by a debtor country only under two conditions: If it earned more from world trade than an agreed amount, and if its reserves of gold and hard currency were greater than the projected payments.

If those conditions were fulfilled in any given year, the World Bank would call on the debtor to pay at least part of the interest and principal owed. Total payments could be as little as 10 per cent and as much as 125 per cent of the debt.

This plan would last 10 years. At the end of that time, the debt in the second portion of the plan would be considered paid off. Payments on the first portion would continue.

Kuczynski estimated in a telephone interview that his plan could save heavily indebted Latin American countries as much as \$13 billion a year in the first few years. Later the savings would be less, but the countries would be in a better position to pay.

A World Bank spokesman said officials are now reading Kuczynski's proposal and would have no immediate comment.

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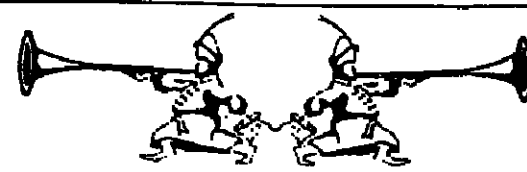
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For Translation Call 648298

Arms makers battle

BANGKOK (R) — Western arms manufacturers, hit by a climate of peace in the world, are competing hard for markets in Asia where they still see a potential for strife, arms experts and manufacturers have said.

Speaking at an international weapons bazaar here, one British arms maker said the market had suffered from a "threat of peace breaking out in the world, particularly Europe and the North Atlantic."

A spokesman for a U.S. company who declined to be identified said: "There is a definite contraction in the market." He added: "We are on the downswing of the pendulum."

Manufacturers, who declined to give figures of weapons sales, hoped continuing tensions in Asia would help offset some of their losses elsewhere.

They noted particularly the instability caused by the conflict in Kampuchea and Sino-Soviet rivalry in the region.

"There are question marks over arms sales internationally," Andrew Chuter, news editor of Jane's Defence Weekly, said in an interview at the exhibition centre. "That's why people come to a place like this."

He added: "There is still a potential for armed conflict in this part of the world."

Manufacturers, buyers and

other experts said Western arms dealers face stiff competition from China, which is cornering the low-technology end of the market with its cheap "friendship prices."

"China is definitely a serious threat, not merely in weaponry but in aircraft as well," Colin Russell of British Aerospace said.

Chuter agreed: "China is going to be dominant for low-level equipment," he said.

Thailand, which traditionally uses U.S. weapons, has bought a big range of the low-cost Chinese weapons in the past two years, including armoured personnel carriers, war ships and artillery.

China is not represented here because it is to hold its own exhibition in early 1989, according to Defence Asia '88 organiser Edward Liu Choon San.

Western manufacturers say they are facing the Chinese challenge by seeking closer manufacturing cooperation with Asian countries, through joint ventures, technology transfers and licence agreements.

"Basically (Asian clients) want something out of it for themselves, something we can leave behind," David Tabbs of the British Ministry of Defence Export Services Organisation said.

"Joint venture is now the name of the game," he said.

Armenia exodus nearly complete

MOSCOW (AP) — By midweek, the only people remaining in the worst of Soviet Armenia's earthquake-ravaged section will be the workers labouring to reconstruct it, Pravda reported Monday.

The Communist Party daily newspaper said 4,500 people — mothers and children — were expected to leave Monday, bound for Anapa, a children's resort about 1,000 kilometres northwest in the Crimea. About 8,000 were evacuated Sunday, the newspaper said.

Within two to three days, only men involved in reconstruction should remain, it said.

Radio Moscow had suggested Sunday that some residents with missing relatives were reluctant to leave 11 days after the quake, that killed an estimated 55,000 people. Those "whose senses have been dulled by grief" still hope to find survivors under collapsed homes and apartment buildings, the state radio said.

Only one survivor was rescued in the 24-hour period that ended Saturday night, the official TASS news agency said. There were no further reports of survivors Sunday or Monday.

In contrast, 15,252 people were dug out alive from beneath the rubble in the first 10 days after the Dec. 7 quake, according to figures in Pravda.

Authorities have been torn between trying to rescue all possible survivors and the need to bulldoze the rubble and spread lime to forestall an epidemic from decomposing corpses.

More than 23,000 bodies have been recovered, but that is less than half the total estimated to have been buried in the piles of stone and concrete that were once the cities of Spitak, Leninakan, Kirovakan and up to 100 villages.

In Spitak, where 15,000 of the 25,000 inhabitants are believed dead, "the smell is becoming more and more pronounced every day," said Boris Yurchenko, an AP photographer who had been in the city.

The city was nearly deserted, with a few people searching for relatives remaining behind and taking shelter in tin garages left standing by the quake, Yurchenko said.

Hanoi begins new Kampuchea pullout

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam has embarked on a major troop withdrawal from Kampuchea, and nearly 200 vessels carrying Vietnamese soldiers Monday sailed past 10,000 well-wishers lining the banks of the Mekong River at Phnom Penh, the official Kampuchean news agency SPK reported.

The agency said the crowd, including Kampuchean Communist Party officials and military officers, gathered to bid farewell to soldiers of division 339. Division commander Colonel Nguyen Minh Chau came ashore to shake hands during the early-morning ceremony, said the report.

"Red banners expressing gratitude to the soldiers were hung at many crossroads, and people waved miniature Vietnamese and Kampuchean flags as the fleet passed, the agency said.

The fleet sailed southward in a roughly 125-kilometre journey to the border of southern Vietnam. The agency said Kampucheans also bade farewell to other departing Vietnamese soldiers in ceremonies Monday in Ratana-kiri province in the northeast, in Kampot province south of Phnom Penh, and in Kompong Cham province east of the capital.

Its report, monitored in Bangkok, did not say how many troops were involved in the movements Monday.

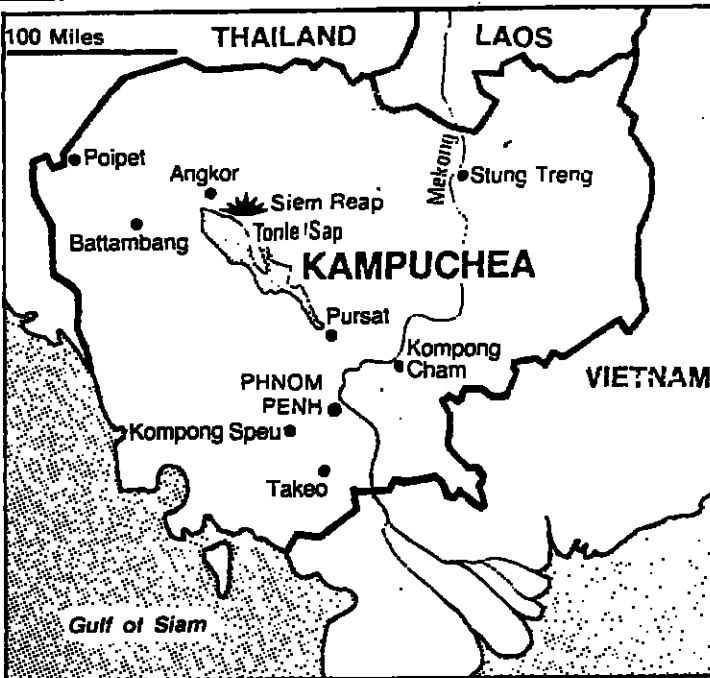
Vietnam says 50,000 soldiers are being sent home this year in its seventh annual partial withdrawal from Kampuchea. Vietnam claims to have pulled out 32,000 troops already this year, and 18,000 more are to leave by land and water in a weeklong transfer to end Wednesday.

Some Western diplomats in Bangkok say they believe only 15,000-20,000 soldiers have left so far this year, however. Vietnam says it had 100,000 soldiers in Kampuchea before this year's pullout began.

The soldiers have been fighting a largely stalemated war against



A building stands half-destroyed in the Soviet Armenian town of Leninakan after the Dec. 7 earthquake which pulverised the entire region.



Kampuchean guerrillas since Vietnam invaded Kampuchea on Christmas Day 1978 and installed the pro-Vietnamese government of president Heng Samrin. Vietnam says it will withdraw all its soldiers by 1990 and leave the fighting to Heng Samrin's forces.

Prime Minister Hun Sen of Kampuchea said Friday that only 50,000 troops would be left in his country after this year's pullout.

Sri Lankans vote amid rebel attacks

COLOMBO (R) — Marxist rebels and unidentified gunmen killed nine voters and injured 25 in a series of attacks aimed at disrupting Sri Lanka's presidential election Monday, police said.

They said the casualties came in four separate attacks at or near polling stations.

In another attack in the southwestern district of Moneragala, an election official was shot dead and two injured.

Police said bombs exploded near several polling stations before voting started, probably to scare away voters.

Officials said voter turnout was low in the morning but picked up later despite violence which has killed about 45 people since Sunday.

The two main challengers in the poll to replace President Junius Jayewardene expressed confidence of victory but complained of election-related violence.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, candidate for the ruling United National Party, told reporters after casting his vote: "I am confident of victory. I hope to win by a margin of nearly a million."

But he added: "It's a contest not between individuals but between the bullet and the ballot."

Freedom Party leader Sirima Bandaranaike, the main opposition candidate, said "I will win if there is a fair poll, but there is a lot of trouble."

Jayewardene, heading a government which faces a growing leftwing insurgency in southern Sri Lanka and a Tamil separatist revolt in the north and east, says he will step down as soon as his successor is chosen.

Bandaranaike, who voted in her constituency about 30 kilometres from Colombo, said two Freedom Party officials had been killed during the weekend.

She has accused the government of "promoting and fostering violence". Jayewardene denies the allegation and says Bandaranaike's party has "encouraged" some rebel groups.

Police blame the leftwing People's Liberation Front and its People's Patriotic Movement ally for most of the violence.

The rebels, mainly members of

the majority Sinhalese community, have condemned the election as a fraud.

Police said two voters were killed Monday in an attack on a polling station in the central hill district of Matale. Several women were among the 15 injured.

They said about six rebels opened fire on the polling station with automatic weapons.

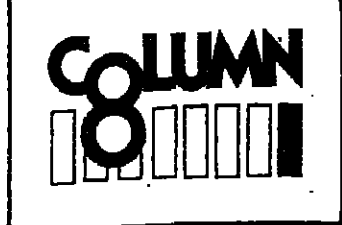
Officials said three polling booths in Moneragala were closed after a senior election officer was killed and two injured in an ambush Sunday night.

In other weekend violence, rebels shot dead a Freedom Party official and six people who were with him at his home in Matale.

In nearby Kandy district, five people putting up election posters were shot dead, police said.

They said several gunmen stormed into a Buddhist temple in a Colombo suburb Sunday night and shot dead a monk who helped found the leftwing People's Party of Oswin Abeygunasekera, the third presidential candidate.

Two hours before voting started at 7 a.m. (0130 GMT) Monday a bomb went off in a polling station in the capital Colombo, injuring a policeman.



Killing mice gets you a holiday

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's authorities have offered a reward of 10 days' holiday to anyone willing to wage a barehanded battle against hordes of marauding fieldmice. A frontpage report in the Communist Party daily Rabotnichesko Delo said huge areas of crops were in danger from fieldmice which had increased breeding during a recent cold spell. "If we don't take strong and rapid action large areas of winter wheat will be irrevocably destroyed," the report said. "This scourge could destroy our crops for next year."

Bulgarian radio said the mice had to be killed by hand because poison might damage crops. Rabotnichesko Delo said: "Every participant in this campaign will be granted 10 days holiday."

Film makes pizza parlour famous

MYSTIC, Connecticut (AP) — The success of a film about three girlfriends who work in a small-town pizza parlour was turned the real Mystic Pizza into one of this tourist town's top attractions. Mystic Pizza owners Steve and Fofi Zelepos say they have lines of people waiting outside their parlour and are even entertaining a franchising proposal put forward by a group of New York businessmen in the wake of the opening of the popular movie, "Mystic Pizza."

"But it means more work," Fofi Zelepos said. "I used to go home after two in the afternoon. Now sometimes I'm here until 11 at night."

Zekepos, 51, said people are coming from the states of New York and New Jersey to the restaurant his family has run for 14 years in the Connecticut Shoreline town. The Zelepos family does plan to expand, opening a branch — Mystic Pizza the Second — in a nearby community. The motion picture that has altered the lives of the Zelepos family was the idea of Amy Jones, a director and screenwriter who dropped into the pizza parlour during a vacation in Mystic.

Ex-policeman pleads not guilty of Pretoria killings

PRETORIA (R) — A white ex-policeman accused of methodically gunning down blacks in central Pretoria pleaded not guilty Monday after psychiatrists declared him sane.

Barnd Strydom, 23, said by authorities to be a self-confessed member of an ultra right-wing group, was arrested after a 15-minute shooting rampage Nov. 15 in which seven people were killed and more than a dozen wounded.

Eyewitnesses said the killer strode through the streets of Pretoria and smiled as he picked off black passers-by. The episode raised widespread fears in neighbouring black townships of further massacres.

In a packed magistrate's court, Khaki-clad Strydom pleaded not guilty to eight charges of murder. The eighth victim was a black

woman killed south of Johannesburg last year.

He also pleaded not guilty to 15 charges of attempted murder.

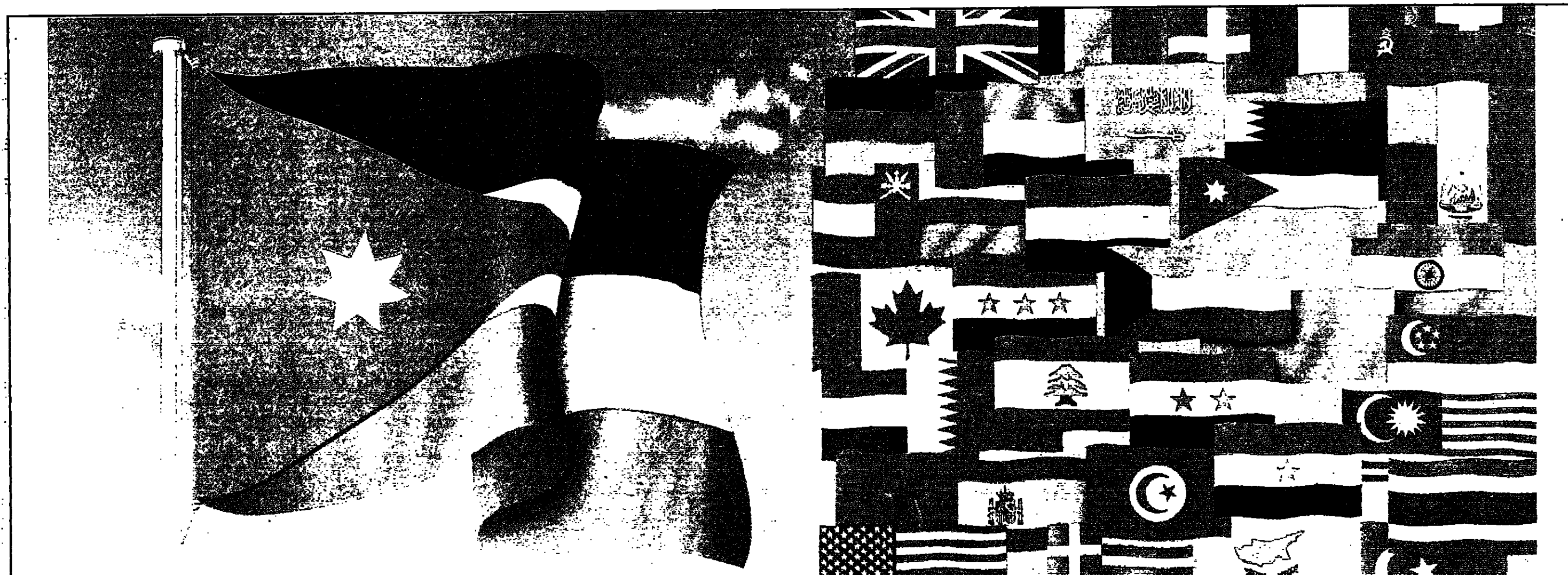
Strydom has been under psychiatric observation at a hospital since the Pretoria shootings. The prosecution Monday presented a hospital report saying he had no mental disorder and knew what he was doing at the time of the alleged shooting.

The case was adjourned until Feb. 13.

Concert riot

One person died and at least 31 were injured Sunday when pop music fans went on a rampage at a concert northwest of Johannesburg, police said.

Fighting broke out at a resort for blacks near the town of Rustenburg after musicians turned up



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